

# Disability NOW

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with an interest  
in disability

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# Mean streets of Britain

The cost of being disabled in Britain varies from street to street, and even your chance of dying young can depend on your address.

*Local Living Costs*, published by the Policy Studies Institute and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, found wide price differences in rent, fuel, meals-on-wheels and personal care in the UK.

Home care services were free in Derbyshire last year, but disabled people in Surrey were paying up to £320 a week.

Report co-author, Elaine Kempson, said charges varied greatly. "For people in similar circumstance living on local authority borders it could vary from street to street."

The report includes details from a survey of 148 local authorities by the Labour Research Department in October 1996 which showed wide differences in charging policies.

Another Joseph Rowntree report, *Death in Britain: How local mortality rates have changed: 1950s to 1990s*, reveals how areas with the highest number of premature deaths are usually the poorest.

Those living in Glasgow are 66 per cent more likely to die early than people living in the Dorset countryside.

For pensioners or disabled tenants, paying for meals-on-wheels was most expensive in Cornwall, Avon, Dorset and Pembrokeshire, while the cheapest areas included Leeds, Derbyshire and most of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Those on income support in Cornwall forked out £9.35 a week more than those in Angus for electricity, water and meals.

Most of the areas identified as being low cost for people needing meals-on-wheels did not charge for home care, for which there are no national guidelines, while all high cost areas did.

Ms Kempson said: "It is an enormous inequity. Some local authorities exempt people on income support and others don't. Some take disability living allowance care component and attendance allowance into account in financial assessments, and others don't. Some have a flat rate and others charge per hour."

The report calls for limits on charges to be introduced.

Campaigners from Direct Action Network (DAN) in the London Borough of Haringey demonstrated in July over service charges which they claimed put peoples' lives at risk.

They said many were worried about getting into debt and had refused help because they had to pay.

Meanwhile, charges for personal care services have been increased by North Yorkshire County Council. Disabled people will now have to pay for day care and transport and there are plans to stop supplying equipment for independent living.

Pauline Thompson, of the

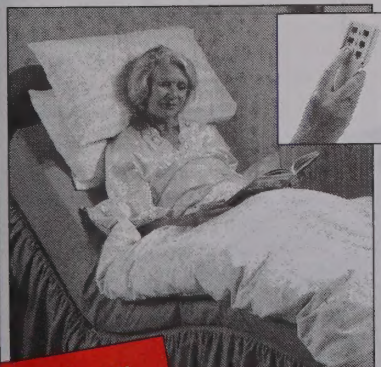
Disablement Income Group, said: "This demonstrates what a mess we are in and there is no single solution. The Royal Commission on long term care which was promised in the Labour manifesto should look into this issue."

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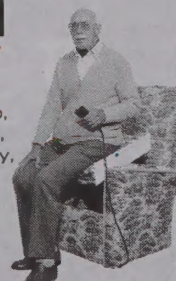
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Soccer celebration: Steve Hainsby embraces team-mate Les Smith after their team, Chelsea Disabled Football Club, won the cup at the Nottingham Disabled Persons' International Festival of Football against teams from around the world, including the former Soviet block, in July. IMAGES SANS FRONTIERES

## Drug debate sparks up

Calls for more discussion on legalising drugs have been made after the murder of five-year-old Dillon Hull in a drugs-related shooting last month.

Both the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society have held talks on the benefits of having drugs extracted from the cannabis plant available on prescription for use in pain control.

Last month, a *Disability Now* survey asked readers whether they thought cannabis should be legalised for medicinal purposes.

Labour MP for Bolton South-East, Brian Iddon, said the public had a right to a debate about drugs and decriminalisation.

Mr Iddon said he welcomed the DN survey. "I don't see why

cannabis and its derivatives shouldn't be used as medicines."

The Liberal Democrats are in favour of a Royal Commission on drugs and want the issue taken out of the party political arena.

Please complete the survey in the August issue or call us with your views, on 0171-636 5020.

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
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## Stop press

### First Scottish case

An Edinburgh industrial tribunal awarded Derek Howden £12,658 in August after he was dismissed by Capital Coolers – in what is believed to be the first successful case under the Disability Discrimination Act in Scotland. The photocopying company dismissed Mr Howden after he had taken time off with kidney stones.

### Benefit U-turn

Plans to change the way the Benefits Agency is run in Wales have been scrapped after a storm of protests from Welsh MPs and care organisations.

The plan, which would have closed most benefits agency offices and left only enquiries by telephone or appointment, was introduced last year by the Tory Government.

### Cross to bear

Disabled and elderly holiday-makers may no longer be able to rely on the council of the British Red Cross if it goes ahead with plans to scrap holiday provision.

In a leaked document, the charity revealed that it wanted to concentrate on responding to emergencies. Director Marion Lowe said if the decision was made, past users would not be abandoned and alternative arrangements would be made.

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# Council bids to overturn ruling

Sefton Council is appealing to the Law Lords to overturn a decision which forces it to pay the costs of elderly people's residential care.

It says the Court of Appeal used a legal loophole to reverse a High Court decision made in March (DN, May).

The appeal judges ruled in July that Charlotte Blanchard, 87, would no longer have to pay

for her own residential care until her personal savings dropped to £1,500.

Mrs Blanchard had previously been ordered by the High Court to continue her payments even though her savings had fallen below £16,000, the point at which Government guidelines say local authorities should start contributing.

Charities Age Concern and

Help the Aged, which jointly took the case to appeal, said the decision was a landmark victory.

Help the Aged's head of planning and development, Tessa Harding, said: "We believe this makes local authorities' responsibilities crystal clear and will stop other councils following Sefton's example."

But acting assistant director

at Sefton Council, Alan Lewis, said there was still confusion over who local authorities legally had to make arrangements for.

"[The appeal judges said the charges procedure] must apply to people we must make arrangements for as well as those in top priority need. This is not implicit in the law so we are appealing."



Cheers: Actor Mathew Fraser, 35, who has shortened arms, appears in a new cinema advertisement launched by the National Disability Council and Cooperative Bank. The advert, which shows his character joking about other drinkers' attitudes towards him, is part of their *See the person...not the disability* campaign, which was first screened in August. The campaign highlights the views of disabled people about the way they are portrayed.

## Students in line for boost

Plans for major reforms to the higher education system have been welcomed by student disability group, Skill, the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities.

The recently published Dearing report makes almost 100 recommendations. Of these, the Government has already agreed to introduce a means tested loan scheme for all students to pay up to £1,000 of their tuition

fees. Another recommendation is to get students to pay their own maintenance costs of about £2,000 a year.

Skill has welcomed the decision to extend the disabled students' allowances (DSA) to part-time and post-graduate students and to those that have become disabled and want to do a second higher education degree. There are also plans to stop means testing for DSA.

## Equality wrangle

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), which fights sex discrimination, is opposing proposals for a body which would oversee its work and that of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), along with disability issues, fearing a loss of autonomy.

The proposal is being considered by ministers working on a Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

An EOC spokesperson said: "We do not think that sex discrimination is the same as race discrimination or the discrimination that the disabled suffer."

Rachel Hurst, chair of the disability group Rights Now, said: "If there is an overarching human rights commission there must be sub-commissions, on different issues. We share a commonality which we should be much more aware of."



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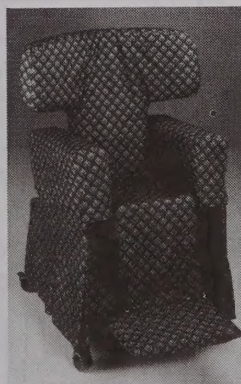
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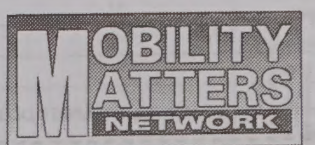
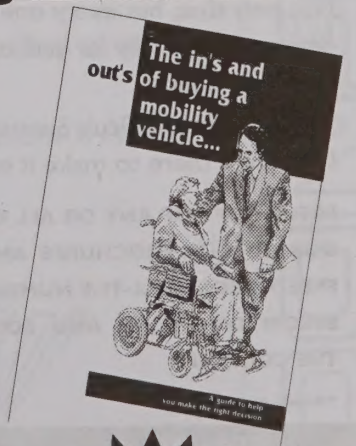
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# The great pretenders

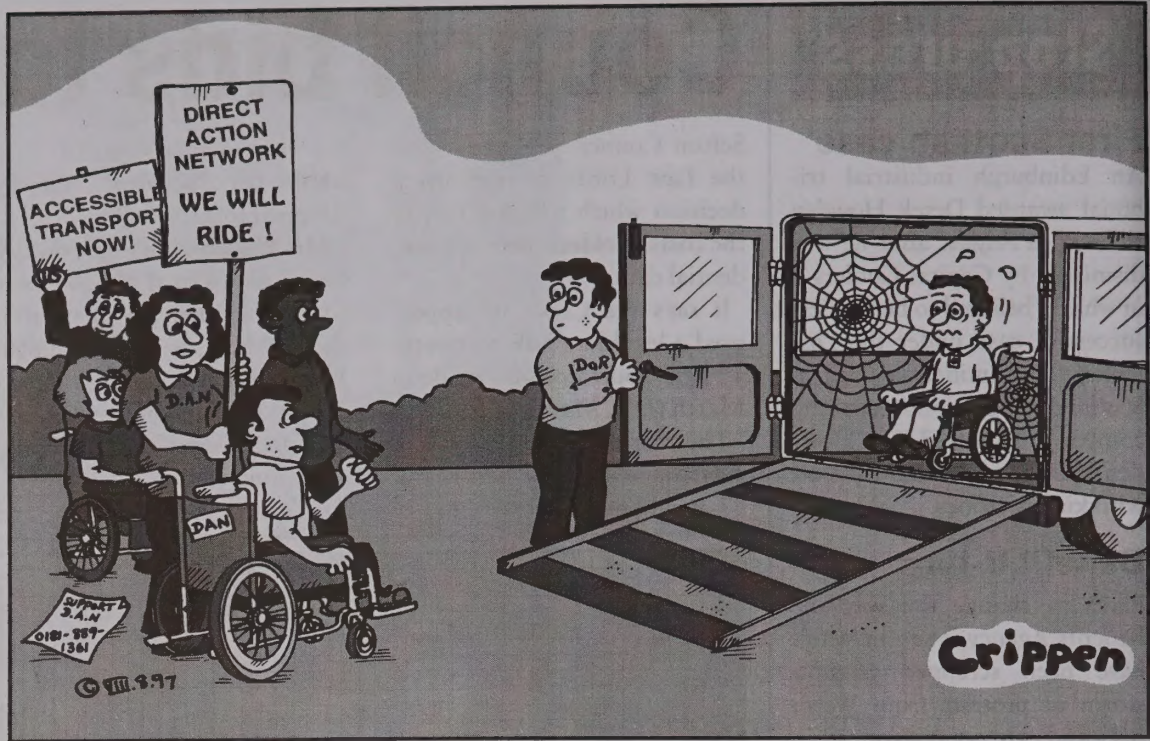
Thieves posing as disabled shoppers are targeting shops in the Merseyside and North Wales areas.

The shoplifters work in pairs and use wheelchairs to hide stolen goods.

Det. Sgt. Frank Anderson, of Birkenhead crime management unit, said: "The thieves take advantage of the fact that other shoppers and even staff are too embarrassed to stare at wheelchair users."

"People tend to shy away. You wouldn't think somebody in a wheelchair was committing a crime."

Security cameras from various stores found the "disabled" shoppers were usually hiding the goods behind their back or under a blanket over their legs.



"I think that Dial-a-Ride are taking our 'We will Ride' slogan a bit too literally!"

# Taken for a ride

A disabled teenager was taken on a five hour nightmare journey across London by North London Dial-a-Ride because staff did not have the address of his carer.

Leon Christie, 16, from Hackney, who has multiple and severe disabilities and has difficulties communicating verbally, was supposed to be going back to his carer's house after attending a youth club last November, a journey which normally takes around 20 minutes.

North London Dial-a-Ride collected Mr Christie from the youth club and attempted to take him to his home address which was unoccupied. After

dropping off other clients, the driver returned to the empty house twice more before calling the police who searched Leon's possessions and found his carer's details.

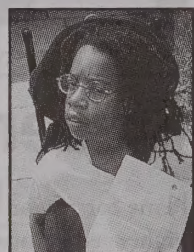
Leon's mum, Donna, told DN: "The carer booked Dial-a-Ride the day before and was so worried that she double checked the booking. This was one of the first times Leon had used the Dial-a-Ride service alone."

Laura Browning of carers' organisation, Hackney Family

Back up, said: "We had called the emergency services and the emergency social work team were reacting to this as a child protection issue. The police were told by Dial-a-Ride that all vehicles were back and we were waiting for a few hours without any idea of where he was."

"The complaints procedure has taken me ages because I have had to wait for the right forms to come through."

General manager of North London Dial-a-Ride, Jerry Weeks, said: "My understanding is that the matter was dealt with by our booking agents last year by telephone with Mrs Christie."



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# Survey gets Labour vote

The Government has called for more polling stations to be made accessible by the time the referendums on devolution in Scotland and Wales are held in September.

This follows a Scope report Polls Apart 2, which showed 80 per cent of polling stations had two or more access problems. It criticised local authorities for not heeding Home Office guidance.

Alan Howarth, minister for employment and equal opportunities, said: "By the time it gets to the referendum campaign in Scotland and Wales, which is the first major test, we are going to have to try much, much harder."

Meanwhile, Liberal Democrat disability spokesman, Paul Burstow, has introduced a Bill to bring in adaptations such as large print on voting slips to allow blind and partially sighted people to vote unaided.

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BRITISH MADE

# Benefit ruling fears

The Government has announced emergency measures to protect more than 500,000 disabled, elderly and vulnerable people facing possible eviction, after a High Court ruling decided housing benefit should not be used for care and support needs.

People living in supported or sheltered housing get extra housing benefit because they have to pay for care and support as well as rent. This cost the Government £500 million a year.

Housing agencies had sought a review of decisions made by four housing benefit review boards who would not pay the extra money.

But Mr Justice Laws ruled in July that the benefit should not meet "general social provisions for the protection of disadvantaged people in their homes".

The Government is to delay the effects of the judgement and will compensate providers of supported accommodation when it comes into effect.

But new accommodation is not protected and cash-strapped local authorities may have to meet the cost.

Announcing the move, social security secretary Harriet Harman said: "It will enable people to go on living in their own homes whilst we develop a coherent and rational funding arrangement for the longer term."

Neil Betteridge, head of projects and campaigns at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "We

welcome the Government's move as far as it goes. But we are concerned about people in the future. The chances of them receiving adequate support are very poor indeed."

• Meanwhile there is speculation that the Government is to tighten rules to deter people from taking early retirement and claiming incapacity benefit to boost their income.

It is thought ministers may introduce means tests to take into account a person's other income.

## Bitter end to radio's sugar show

*Does He Take Sugar?*, the disability programme on Radio Four, has been scrapped by station controller James Boyle after 19 years.

It was one of 11 programmes which will come off the air next April as part of sweeping changes to make Radio Four more accessible.

Mr Boyle said disability programming would now become part of the mainstream, with disability issues featuring in the consumer programme, *You and Yours*. The *In Touch* programme for visually impaired people will stay.

Tom Shakespeare, a research fellow at Leeds University's Disability Research Unit, said he was sceptical whether mainstream programmes were going to take on disability in the way that Mr Boyle suggested.

Others were also concerned that disability issues would be sidelined. MEP for Coventry and North Warwickshire, Christine Oddy, said: "I am appalled that one of the few programmes which concentrated on disability issues is being axed and will complain."

Paul Robinson, managing director of the national commercial station Talk Radio, said: "It is the responsibility of the public service broadcaster to tackle disability issues on the radio."

## Motability sets targets

Motability is putting the Customer First and motoring organisations are delighted.

The scheme, launched at the Mobility Roadshow, covers a customer charter and grievance procedure. Also Motability has extended its accredited network of dealers leasing new cars to suppliers of powered wheelchairs and scooters, who will be inspected regularly.

Director Noel Muddiman said: "Neither Motability nor its partners can ignore the demand ever improving customer service standards."

The customer charter sets targets for answering letters and telephone calls. For example, letters – including grievances – will be replied to within four working days, and the average response for a call will be 30 seconds. One member of staff will help with any specific enquiry "wherever possible".

Customers with a grievance can now contact a complaints manager in the organisation responsible and appeal against a grant decision.

Morigue Cornwell, director of Banstead Mobility Centre, said: "This is definitely a move in the right direction." She was pleased that Motability would keep statistics and pass them on.

"The end of an awful lot of problems," commented Doug Campbell, executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association. "Now Harlow is running well and dealers will have to come up to standard rapidly or be elbowed out."

Concerns remain about the needs of severely disabled drivers, and Doug Campbell wants one helpline, not several saying different things.

• From 1 October, the RAC takes over roadside rescue and recovery services for new Motability users from the AA. "First class customer service" won it the three-year contract.

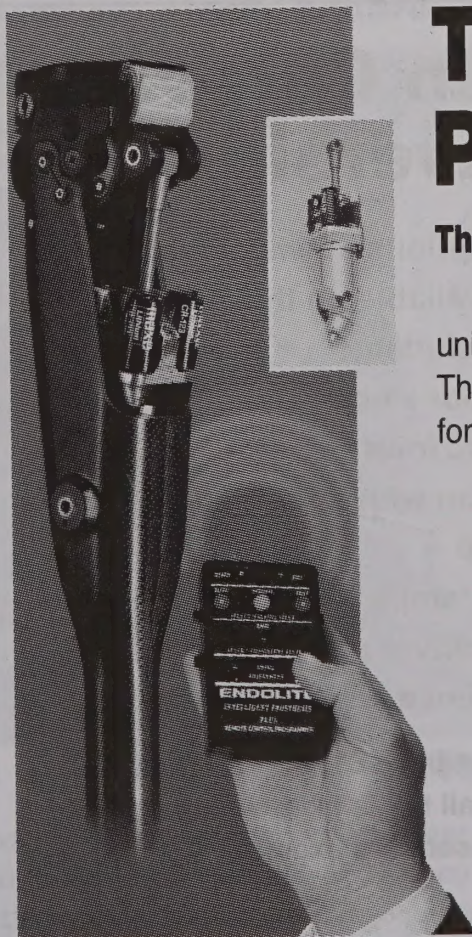


Getting a grip: Amorette Green, who is visually impaired, tackles instructor Victor Ward at the Southern Grove Disability Centre in a jujitsu exhibition as part of Disability Pride fortnight in July. The second annual event in the Tower Hamlets borough of London was held to celebrate the achievements of disabled people in the area. Activities during the two weeks included a sexuality workshop, an independence living workshop, a Bengali cultural day and a fashion show.

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ENDOLITE

Our House: Ruth Cromer, who has Down's Syndrome, and Chris Greenwood, who has mild cerebral palsy, play two of the disabled characters in the new Australian sitcom *House Gang*. The programme, about three disabled tenants living with their landlord, is showing on Channel Four this summer as part of the Access! All Areas series.

A Channel Four spokeswoman said: "We are using the season as a starting point to enhance our commitment to disabled people and include more programmes for and about them." Disability consultant Alison Walsh helped the Channel's education department to devise the series.

Access! All Areas runs until 4 September with the last episode of *House Gang*. (See tv review on page 22.)



## Pension review shows promise

Pensions for carers and those on low pay or in part-time work are to be considered as part of a pensions review announced by the Government.

Social security secretary, Harriet Harman, said the Government would announce the first plans by early 1998.

The basic state pension will remain, along with second pensions, such as occupational pensions.

But Ms Harman said the consultation would consider new second pensions including the Stakeholder Pension, for people on low or irregular pay.

She also announced a Citizenship Pension for carers who are unable to contribute to pensions and end up on means tested benefits.

Pauline Thompson, of the Disablement Income Group, said: "Everybody who is working part-time, flexi-time or whatever, should have a piece of the action, and that should include disabled people."

Baroness Jill Pitkeathley, chief executive of Carers National Association, said: "Carers will be pleased that the contribution and financial sacrifices they make are being recognised."

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DN 9/97



## Taking the Mickey

A group of 25 disabled holiday-makers have been offered an all-expenses paid return visit to Disneyland Paris after they were treated badly by staff.

The group, (right) from Hampton House in Northampton, run by Scope, spent three and a half years raising £20,000 to fund their trip.

But, during three separate visits in May and June, they claim staff were rude, refused them rides and made them share accommodation with carers.

Teamleader Karen Thompson told DN: "On the last trip, a worker was very rude to resi-



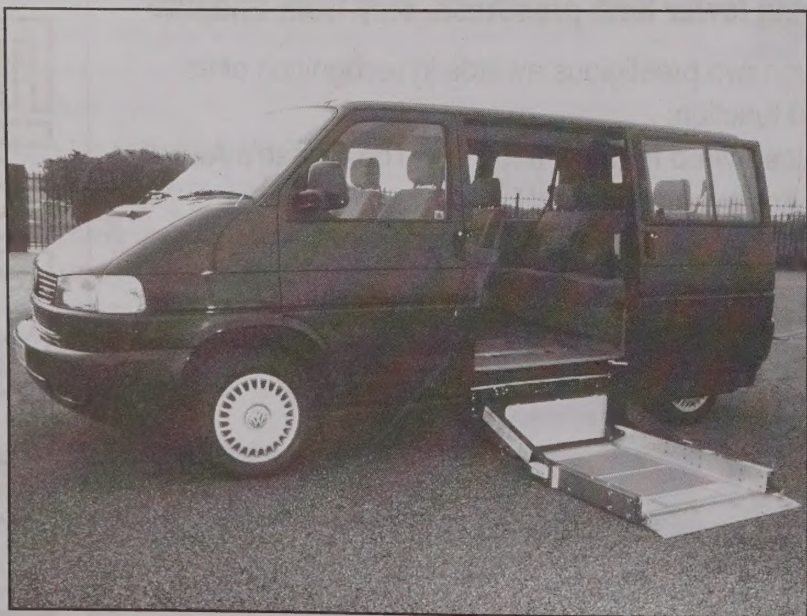
dents. He man-handled one member of staff and put his fists up at me. He said we could not go on a ride that we had been allowed to go on three weeks before. There was a big argument going on and some of our

clients were crying."

Spokeswoman for Disneyland Paris, Michelle Waldron, said: "I think these circumstances arose partly through misunderstanding. Disney has a very good reputation for looking after people with special needs and we feel this is an isolated incident."



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## Jobcentres open door

Disabled people are to have a say in the way Jobcentres serve them and in promoting job opportunities, thanks to a new £500,000 plan called the National Disability Development Initiative.

Equal opportunities minister, Alan Howarth, said it would lead to good practices being adopted throughout the Jobcentres' Disability Service. "Organisations are invited to bid for money to support projects that will enhance the service offered to people with disabilities seeking to get into work, and the service offered to employers."

Projects will have to involve disabled people in decision making and bids must be in by 22 September.

Tel: 0171-925 5555

# Labour disability campaigner dies

Labour's former disability spokesman was found dead at his home in Strathclyde at the end of July.

Scottish MP for Paisley South, Gordon McMaster, 37, (right) was found by his father. He had been diagnosed with ME two years ago and was believed to be

depressed.

Mr McMaster had been an MP for six years and became a Scottish opposition whip in 1992. He worked on behalf of disabled



people, joining the All Party Disablement Group as soon as he became an MP, and played an active part in Dr Roger Berry's Civil Rights for Disabled Persons Bill. He was Labour's spokesperson for disability from 1995-97.

A horticulturalist, Mr

McMaster founded an organisation called Growing Concern, for people with learning difficulties to use horticultural therapy. He also campaigned on behalf of people with ME and Gulf War Syndrome.

Director of the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabili-

tation (RADAR), Bert Massie, said: "He was a lovely bloke who took all disability issues extremely seriously. He did not make a song and dance about what he did. He just quietly got on and did it. It will be difficult to replace Gordon because he took such a burden on himself."

## "Loony" tag sells papers

Articles about people with mental illness calling them "nutter" and "psycho" have been slammed by mental health charity Mind, and the Health Education Authority.

They are calling for more balanced reporting of mental health issues to stop the regular use of negative words in mental health stories.

Their report, *Making Headlines: Mental Health and the National Press*, highlights an independent survey of 1,000 national newspaper articles, which found 54 per cent of tabloid coverage and almost 43 per cent of broadsheet coverage linked people with mental health problems to violent crime.

Mind said people in mental distress were more likely to be

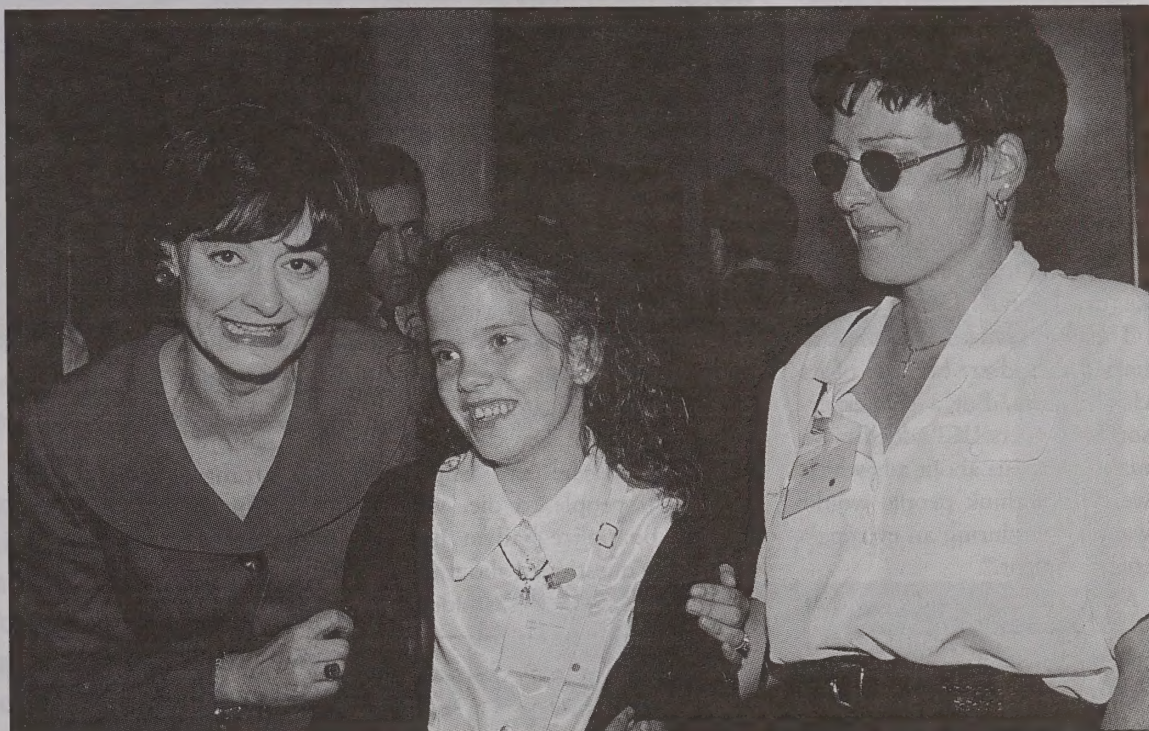
attacked by others or to harm themselves.

Young people aged 16-24 and the over-75s were found to be most negative towards people with mental health problems.

The two organisations have launched a campaign to try to change perceptions and have produced a series of postcards with the photographs of young people with words such as "loony" and "mental" asking people not to use such labels.

Chief executive of Mind, Judi Clements, said: "I hope this initiative will go some way towards undermining the entrenched and negative attitudes people have towards mental illness."

\*Free, tel: 0171-413 1991



## Holiday home doubt

The future of a hotel for disabled people is in doubt after demand for holidays dropped.

A spokeswoman for Leonard Cheshire Foundation, which runs Park House at Sandring-

ham, said: "We are looking at the best way to use the building."

But Londoner Ron Walpole, a regular guest with his wife Dorothy, who has multiple sclerosis, said few places offered such facilities: "Staying there is the only thing which makes my wife feel better."

Tea with Cherie: Aimee Collett, 11, a young carer from Kettering, Northants, meets Cherie Booth at a reception held by the Prime Minister's wife at 10 Downing Street in July in honour of the Carers' National Association. Aimee looks after her mother, Claire, who is blind and has diabetes (right), and her four-year-old sister Sophie, who has cerebral palsy.

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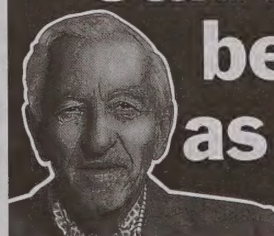
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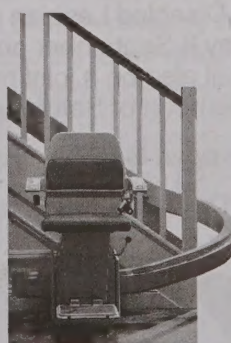
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# Cinemas axe a death wish

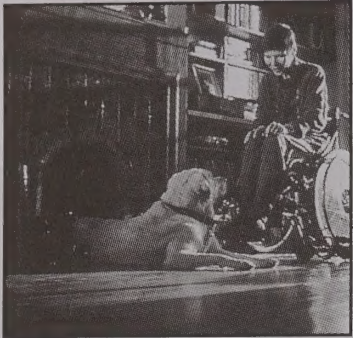
A disabled woman who appears in a new advertisement about voluntary euthanasia has criticised cinema bosses who decided not to show it.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society (VES) advert was given a 15 certificate which means it cannot be shown where the accompanying film is below that age classification.

The commercial shows Jane Macdonald, 48, who has progressive multiple sclerosis, with her dog Lennie.

The Empire in Leicester Square barred the advert because of its classification. But a spokesperson for owners UCI added: "We make decisions about ads which we do not think people would want to see during an evening's entertainment."

Ms Macdonald said: "Neither



Jane and Lennie

VES

Lennie nor I are particularly fearsome. Even small children talk about dying. I am amazed and horrified that they have given it this certificate."

• Newcastle GP David Moor, who admitted he had helped about 150 people to die, was released on police bail in July after being questioned about the death of patient George Liddell.

# Blair picks worthy peers

Carers' National Association chief executive, Jill Pitkeathley, (right) has been honoured with a working peerage in recognition of her work in the voluntary sector.

A trained social worker, she has headed the charity since it was set up in 1988.

She said: "I am delighted to accept this honour on behalf of carers who have worked so hard



Jill Pitkeathley and Alf Morris

to promote the carer's cause. I can ensure that they now have a voice in Parliament."

Alf Morris, the pioneer Minister for Disabled People, was also given a peerage by Tony Blair in the Orders of Knighthood.

Hearing impaired Tory defector and former Liberal Democrat MP Emma Nicholson, who campaigned on disability rights, has become a Baroness. And Jewish Care's president Michael Levy is now a Baron.

## New vigour

VIGG, the Visually Impaired and Gay Group, has changed its name to VIGOUR.

Co-ordinator Keith May said: "We chose the name because there is this image of blind people sitting around doing nothing - we are quite active."

The national self support group arranges social events, runs a helpline and produces a monthly taped newsletter.

Tel: (01705) 524739

# Genes may put jobs at risk

Thousands of people could be barred from work if genetic testing by employers becomes more widespread, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) says.

It is worried that future developments could mean employers will not take on someone with a genetic predisposition or might

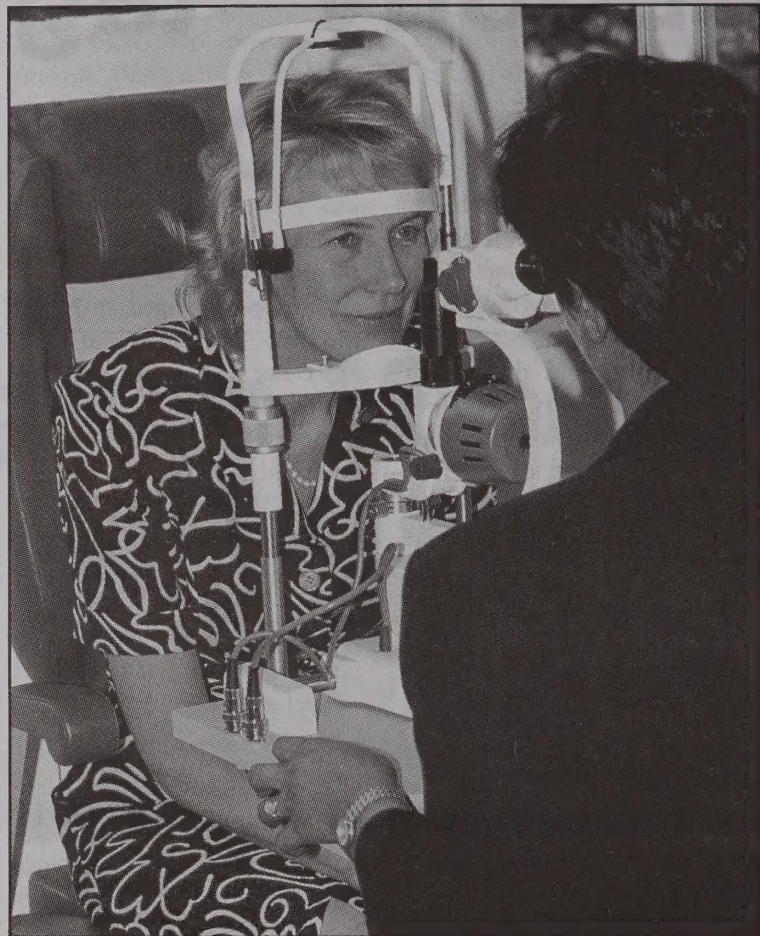
dismiss them to save sick pay, insurance costs, or compensation.

Richard Exell, TUC disability policy officer, said: "We are concerned that without statutory guarantees to protect employees, there is a risk of genetic testing becoming more common. If that happens, thou-

sands of people face discrimination on a daily basis."

The report *Genetic Testing by Employers\** expresses concern that the Disability Discrimination Act does not cover those with a predisposition to a condition.

\*Free, tel: 0171- 467 1319



Forward looking: Virginia Bottomley MP has an eye test at the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association's School of Vision and Rehabilitation Studies in Hindhead, Surrey, where she presented this year's graduates with their diplomas.

COUNTRYWIDE PORTER NOVELLI

## UNISON

**UNISON's 5th Lesbian and Gay Conference** will be held in Bradford on 21 - 23 November 1997.

It is the main forum for developing the union's policy on lesbian and gay issues. The Conference is open to all lesbians and gay men in UNISON, though places are limited.

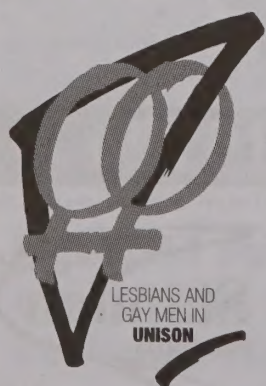
The closing date for applications for the Conference is **5 September 1997**.

**UNISON's National Network Meetings for Black and Disabled Lesbians and Gay Members** will take place on 5, 6 and 7 September 1997 in Bradford.

The Black Lesbian and Gay members network meeting is from 10.00am on Friday 5 September and the Disabled Lesbian and Gay members network meeting is from 10.00am on Saturday 6 September and between 11.00am and 2.30pm on Sunday 7 September. There will also be a joint meeting for black and disabled lesbian and gay members on the afternoon of Saturday 6 September.

These meetings are open to all black and disabled lesbian and gay members.

UNISON publishes **Out in UNISON**, a free quarterly bulletin about our lesbian and gay union work.



For more details about either the 5th Lesbian and Gay Conference, the National Network days or Out in UNISON contact:

Carola Towle or Kursad Kahramanoglu  
UNISON, Civic House  
20 Grand Depot Road  
London SE18 6SF

Tel: 0181 312 7241 (direct line/answerphone)

Text tel: 0181 316 5804

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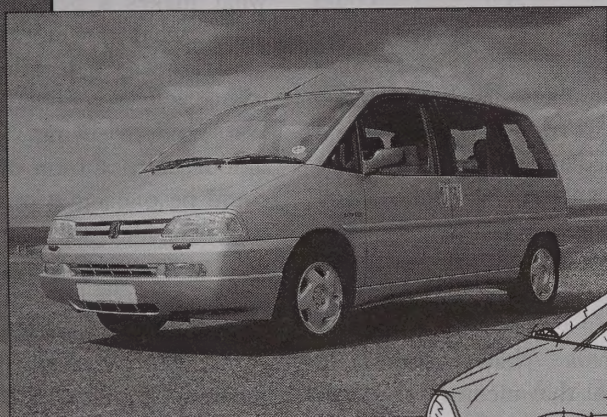


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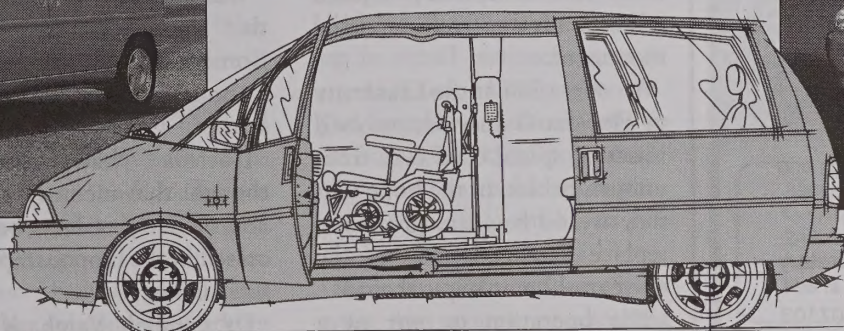
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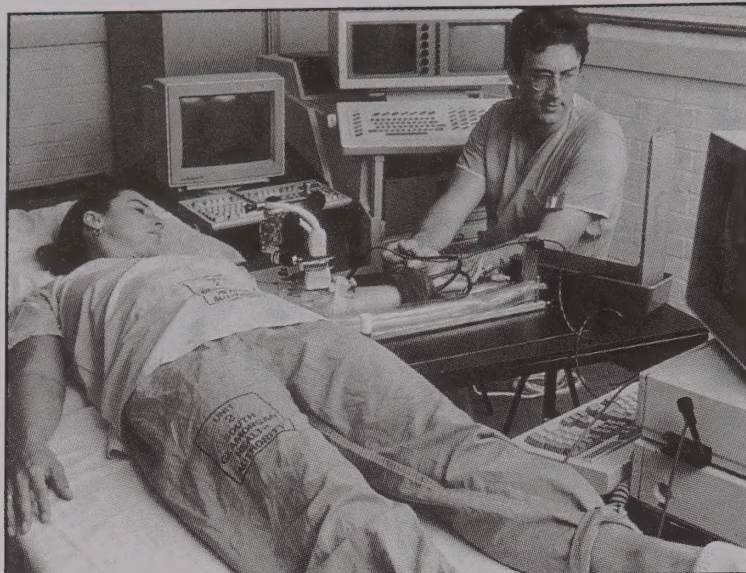
## Poor face disability

Serious disability resulting from heart disease is set to increase unless urgent action is taken to prevent it, and people living in poverty are most likely to have the condition.

The warning came in July from the National Heart Forum, a consortium of health organisations.

Although the number of people with heart disease has fallen since the '70s, the proportion surviving with severe disabilities is set to rise, says the forum. It has carried out a year-long study, *Looking to the Future*, to examine ways of tackling heart disease.

Professor Desmond Julian, chairman of the forum, said: "The burden of the disease in the UK is shifting. It is already one of the leading causes of disability in the community, and is



Testing time: a researcher at the University of Wales measures the health of blood vessels  
BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

set to grow further still. This, of course, has serious ramifications for our welfare and care policies."

More health campaigns are needed to tackle the leading causes of heart disease – diet, smoking and inactivity says the forum.

Among men, unskilled manual workers are three times more likely to die early from coronary heart disease than professional men.

Women in manual groups are twice as likely to die early from it than non-manual groups.

a condition called syringomyelia.

Cells were taken from foetuses aborted between six and nine weeks with the permission of the mother. At that stage they are still dividing, unlike adult cells, which is why brain injuries and spinal injuries do not heal in adults.

## Doctors' memory warning

Doctors and teachers should not make assumptions about the degree of learning difficulty in brain damaged children with memory problems, say scientists.

Research at the Institute of Child Health in London and in America shows that damage to the hippocampus in the brain causing amnesia does not affect all aspects of memory.

The team studied three young people with brain injury. All experienced amnesia and could not remember everyday events or find their way round familiar surroundings, but they attended mainstream schools and attained average grades.

While children might know that the capital of Italy was Rome, they may not remember a holiday there the previous year.

Doctors had previously thought that memory of events and memory of facts both processed in the hippocampus were inter-linked.

Dr Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, who led the research, said: "As a

result of this study, we need to rethink how children with special needs are assessed and diagnosed.

"If children with this type of amnesia can be diagnosed early, then appropriate remediation can be given early on, perhaps even before school entry.

"If we can do this we may be able to help these children to live more independently."

## Allergy to increase

More than a quarter of adults will have some allergies including eczema, asthma and hayfever by the year 2019 doctors have warned.

Dr Warren Lenney, of the British Thoracic Society, said in July that while many children may outgrow allergies adults will often develop them in later life.

"It is vital that we examine what makes a person allergic and what symptoms or lifestyles can trigger allergy. The role of environmental factors and modern living, such as indoor air pollution and diet, could be playing a key role in triggering allergy in adults."

## Test call

A simple £11 test is helping doctors to detect a chemical imbalance in children with behavioural problems and should be made more widely available.

The Hyperactive Children's Support Group says this will prevent some children being labelled bad and simply written off.

The urine test detects chemicals which indicate that the bodies levels of vitamin B6 and zinc are low.

Sally Bunday, who founded the support group, said a supplement could then be given which would improve the children's behaviour. Many of them had been in trouble with the police and expelled from school.

The test developed in Canada is available in London at the Bio Lab Medical Unit.

## Nerve repair bid

Research has started into repairing damage to the myelin coating around nerves in the brain and spine which interrupts messages in multiple sclerosis.

The research at London's Charing Cross Hospital is backed by Glaxo Wellcome and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



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## Baby cell injections

American scientists have injected cells from aborted foetuses into a spinally injured man, in a bid to restore partial movement.

An operation at the University of Florida, Gainesville, involved injecting spinal cord cells from unborn babies, in the hope that they would begin to grow and replace damaged parts of the 41-year-old man's spinal cord.

The operation is part of a study involving 10 people with

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# Prague fails to put people first

Disabled people in the Czech Republic are finding it hard to improve their lives and status, says Simon Jackson

The Czech government's bid to cut back on benefit fraud has badly affected disabled people.

Since January 1995, a new method of assessing disability has meant thousands have lost their benefits. Now, only 12,000 people are registered as fully disabled, compared with 46,000 under the old system.

Doctors used to assess patients on their ability to perform everyday tasks. Now, status is judged on a points scale.

Each disability is assigned a maximum number of points. When someone has two or more debilitating conditions, the maximum number of points awarded for a subsidiary condition is ten. A patient with 66 points or more is given fully disabled status.

## Point scoring pitfalls

This has worked against many people with multiple disabilities. Those with diabetes, for example, can be prone to blindness and amputation. But diabetes carries 40 points and a combination of all three disabilities would not add up to 66.

Stanislava Makovcova is head of international affairs for World of Representatives of Disabled Groups, a Czech umbrella organisation with 120 members, which gives advice, counselling and training, and has representatives in parliament.

Mrs Makovcova says: "The law suggests these people who lose their disability status could work if special conditions in the workplace were created, but in reality many people have a very slim chance of employment."

## Working it out

While unemployment continues to rise in the Czech republic, it is disabled people who are the hardest hit.

In 1995, 13 per cent of unemployed people were disabled. In March 1997, the number had risen to 18.5 per cent.

Most disabled people who work in Czechoslovakia are employed by co-operatives, in which 60 per cent are disabled. They were set up under communism, but in the new free market system these are under threat.

Ljiljana Bojicova, head of the medical department at the Czech office for social security, is aware of the complaints, but says the new law is still an improvement on the old system.

The Ministry of Social Affairs still believes the huge, government-funded institutions are the



Ticket to ride: one of the few accessible buses

MATT CARR

best place for disabled people.

Mrs Makovcova says: "You can't call these institutions residential homes."

"The institution I visited recently for children with learning difficulties had 15 people sleeping in each room. The government claims that parents are in favour of these places, but what other solution do working parents have?"

## A basic law

Dr Jan Hutar, a lawyer with the Czech Association of the Disabled, believes far more basic

legislation is needed.

"About 70,000 people are living in social institutions, costing 15,000ck (£288) a month. The benefits for those outside are only 3,000ck (£57) a month."

"We need to enable more people to have the option to live independently."

Most improvements have been made by groups of disabled people themselves, and have received government funding only after they have been proved to be successful.

An example of this is the mini bus initiative which works as a

taxi service for disabled people in the Prague area. It is now subsidised by the Ministry of Health.

The government has pledged to improve public transport and there is now a wheelchair-accessible scheduled bus running from Jan Hutar the three areas in the capital's outskirts where accessible housing has been built.

Changes are slow and money is in short supply. The same is true of public buildings.

Although legislation now states that all new public buildings must be wheelchair accessi-

ble, little has been done to adapt most of the already existing theatres, cinemas, galleries and museums.

## Lessons to learn

Education is another area where the right moves are being made, without the right back-up.

Until 1995, the government claimed certain groups – people with severe physical disabilities or learning difficulties – were uneducable.

A new education law last year stated that everyone is entitled to education, but it did not include directives on transport, teachers or the number of places in schools.

Hopes are now resting on the Third Social Act, a law which is being prepared after hard lobbying by disabled people.



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Picturesque Prague: Charles Bridge and castle in the city centre



Pals: David Henderson with guide-dog Falcon

ROD HERMESTON

## Rod Hermeston meets winning photographer David Henderson

David Henderson has been honoured for an unexpected talent – photography.

He is one of only four people in the British Isles to be awarded the City and Guilds bronze medal for photography this year:

A real achievement for anyone, but even more so for David, 57, who is registered blind and has a guide-dog called Falcon. He was born able to see only varying shades – with no focus, but he caught

the photography bug early at the age of seven.

A father of two, David decided to study photography after work as a piano tuner dried up. But he found colleges would not take him seriously.

"I do get irritated when people think that because you have a sight problem you've got something wrong with your brain.

"One college allowed me to take my place in a class, the teacher said my photographs were good. Then came the excuses, including that old chestnut – health and safety – and I had to leave the course."

But he persisted and eventually found a tutor at

Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke, Chris Dearden, who was willing to help find ways round difficulties in the dark room.

David is now two years into a City and Guilds photography course, which will lead to a Royal Photographic Society distinction.

**"My photographs are exceptional not because I have a sight problem, but exceptional by anybody's standards."**

"It was very much a team effort. Chris used to give up his lunch hour for me."

Gill, his wife of 24 years, helps out with the chemicals and setting up equipment.

David uses a standard £500 Nikon camera, which feeds him information through a series of beeps.

"It is all my decision making. I am the one who looks through the viewfinder. I know exactly what I want to do.

"It is not necessarily down to the picture you take. It is also in

the printing stage which is where you produce the really stunning photographs.

"I am able to create the image in the form of a print. I use my magnifier and it all turns to life. I can only see it in small sections and I have to create the full image in my own mind. It comes from inside you."

The bronze award goes to only one person in every 3,000. It is no mean feat and was judged on David's entire year's work which concentrated on churches taken in black and white.

He and his tutor are now trying to set up an exhibition.

"I'd like to teach photography to visually impaired people. I haven't been doing this out of a selfish interest. I have broken down barriers and created awareness.

"I've been told my photographs are exceptional not because I have a sight problem, but exceptional by anybody's standards.

"There is no reason why any visually impaired person should not take decent pictures."



One of David's winning photographs of Salisbury Cathedral

## Individual Membership of Scope

From this month, you could become a member of Scope - Britain's largest charity working for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

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What are the benefits of membership?

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- As a member you will have a right to vote at Scope's Annual General Meeting.
- You can be involved in planning and prioritising services in your local area through new Partnership Committees.
- You can join in local and national campaigns to challenge discrimination, fight for better services and work for improved civil rights legislation.
- Membership will entitle you to receive publications about Scope's work and issues of interest to disabled people whether or not you are actively involved.

What is the cost of becoming a member?

To avoid excluding anybody from joining as an individual member, the annual fee has been set at £10.

(The actual cost to Scope to run the scheme will be about £18 per member so if you are able to give more your donation will help make this all important change towards individual membership self-supporting).

Membership hotline: 0171-637 1670



Please send me more information when it is available:

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Please note that the minimum age for Scope individual members is 18. Scope and local group employees are not eligible for membership.

Having a ball: Dennis Calonico of the US basketball team on his way to victory against Paul Grant (left), Chris Chapman (second right) and Nichola Dean (right) of the UK team in the second World Dwarf Games.

The British team could not match the USA's standard, although it gave a creditable performance in the football competition to take bronze.

New Zealander Corinne Rowe thought her journey to Peterborough was well worth the effort as she went home with medals for swimming, track and field and power lifting. She also picked up the Best Female Athlete award at the games which took place, 19-26 July.

Other nations represented included Canada and the Philippines. Competition was extremely fierce, but opposing teams gave each other support and advice and the philosophy of "sport for all" was a genuine and welcome aspect of the games.

Germany has provisionally offered to host the third World Dwarf Games in 2001 and the athletes will start training for this soon.

Simon Minty



A flying ace: World number one, Ricky Molier, of the Netherlands, powers a smash to win the mens' singles at the British Open Wheelchair Tennis competition in Nottingham, 21-26 July. He beat defending champion Laurent Giammartini of France to take the title, scoring a victory over British number one, Jayayant Mistry, now ranked 11th in the world, on the way.



Hoop dreams: Ellessandra Oliveira of Brazil Stoke takes aim in the basketball competition at the World Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville, 27 July-2 August. The games saw 180 athletes from 27 countries compete in sports ranging from golf to scuba diving.



# Sporting summer

This summer's sporting action in pictures, by Graham Bool Photography

Philip Goodall (right) celebrates winning his heat of the 50m sprint at the Special Olympics held at Portsmouth, 12-19 July. Philip, from Buntingford, who has a severe learning difficulty, came third in the final.

More than 2,100 people with learning difficulties took part in the games - the UK's fifth annual event.



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Building self-esteem: Len Dixon in action at Remploy's Brixton factory

ROD HERMESTON

# Try taking shelter

## (5) Rod Hermeston looks into supported work schemes

Many disabled people find it impossible to work in open employment and supported employment schemes provide jobs which are reserved specifically for them.

Most come under the Government's supported employment programme which offers grants to employers.

Factories or workshops reserved for disabled people are run by employers such as Remploy or a local authority.

Supported placements offer work with a host firm among non-disabled colleagues; the employee earns the same wage as them, but the employer is usually a local authority, a voluntary organisation such as Scope or Mencap, or Remploy, which pays the wages.

You can find out what is on offer in your area from the Disability Employment Adviser at your local job centre.

Remploy employs more than 10,000 people – 90 per cent of whom are disabled. Most work in the company's 95 factories and work varies from book-binding to

making electrical goods.

Employees can gain National Vocational Qualifications as



Wired-up: Pamela Perry

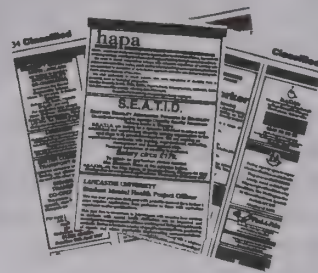
they work.

Former roofer Len Dixon, 55, who is paraplegic, has worked at Remploy Brixton Manufacturing Services, which employs 91 disabled people, for 11 years.

"I worked in two factories prior to this in open employment, but was made redundant twice. Working gives you self-esteem," he says.

José Fernando Conceicao, 38, was affected by the thalidomide drug. He has worked at the factory for six months.

"I used to work in a non-disabled electrical company in Portugal. I was doing my best



but bosses and supervisors were always criticising me. They respect you here and you do what you are capable of."

Pamela Perry, 52, has arthritis and has worked at the factory for a year. "When I applied for jobs previously they did not want to know once they found out I was disabled."

Factory manager Tyrone Pearce says employees can earn up to £200 per week.

"An employee here would be expected to achieve a minimum of one fifth of what would be done outside in industry."

Remploy also has a supported placement scheme called Interwork.

Bernadette Conway, 28, who has a learning disability, works as a secretary at Mencap under the scheme. "It's quite good. I would find it difficult to find a job in other places."

Clive Richards, 50, of Birmingham, who has a learning disability, works at Concord Engineering as a part-time cleaner under the Scope placement scheme. He is paid £65 a week. "I enjoy working here; it's great," he says. "I wouldn't want to be on the factory floor because I am too nervous to go on the machines."

At present Remploy has 2,400 interworkers, and aims to increase the number to 4,000 over the next five years.

This trend is backed by a National Audit Office report (DN April), which called on Remploy to increase the number of employees in Interwork. It found that in 1994-5 the firm spent £9,931 placing each worker in a factory, but £4,320 placing someone in a host firm.

But Kevin Hepworth, the Graphical Paper and Media Union representative at two

Remploy factories in the midlands, says: "Disabled people are better treated in the factories than in Interwork. The factories we are involved in provide proper employment and meaningful work."

Phil Davies, the national representative dealing with Remploy for the GMB, says: "Remploy is better than the other providers."

But he warned: "We are seeing more people taken on who are less severely disabled."

"It seems they are looking at what a person can produce rather than how they can train a person over a long period to get up to a standard of production."

Mr Davies says there is too much emphasis on simply placing people in Interwork.



Just the job for José

"In the factories disabled people can make sure they are treated properly and their wages are negotiated. Some of the placements provide very low pay."

But Ray Fletcher, personnel director at Remploy, says: "The average level of pay for Interworkers is generally comparable with our factory-based employees. The criteria for recruitment into Remploy is the same now as it has been for many years, the difference today is that we seek to utilise the skills and talents of our employees to a greater extent than ever before."

Interwork provides a wide range of jobs, many with well-known companies, he says. But what are the prospects for those in the overall supported employment programme?

The NAO report showed that in 1995-6 inability to meet output or health problems accounted for 41 per cent of people leaving factories or workshops, and 28 per cent of those leaving placements.

Of all those leaving, ten per cent entered open employment. Two per cent of those left factories and went on to a host firm.

Anne Rae, chair of the British Council of Disabled People, says: "The issue is discrimination in the work place and lack of support from schemes like PACT."

"Sheltered work places should merely be a gateway to open employment."

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# 'Never take no for an answer'

Maureen Blake is justly proud of her tenacious daughter who loves life

Anna is the second of three children in what turned out to be a multiply disabled family.

Her younger sister, Christabel, developed epilepsy in early adolescence and her younger brother, Benjamin, born very prematurely, has speech, hearing and learning difficulties.

Anna, 34, has cerebral palsy, a high tone deafness and speech and language disorder. Her birth and after-care had been badly managed and I was left unsupported until Anna was nearly five.

We moved counties and I was introduced to a wonderful woman, Miss Ram, headmistress of Claremont School in Bristol, which was doing pioneering work with the Peto method. She saw the potential in this barely walking,

non-verbal, frustrated little girl and slowly, painfully, she helped Anna build the foundations for her life.

Anna stayed at Claremont until she was 14 when I had a battle with the local authorities to send her to De La Rue school. They refused to fund her placement, but we thought it was the most appropriate place for her and won in the end. Anna spent three happy and productive years there, learning more academic and independent living skills.

Anna moved on to the National College for Disabled Youth in Cheltenham – more affectionately known as The Star Centre – where she developed into a very fine swimmer. She took part in the International Games for Cerebral Palsy in Denmark in 1982 and won a gold and silver medal for swimming. In 1984 Anna was chosen to represent England in the Special Olympics in New York where she won two bronze medals.



A team: Anna and Maureen stay close

ANDY BUSH

Anna had made a lot of friends in Cheltenham and, aged 21, rented the garden flat in a family home and started training and fundraising for a marathon cycle ride around the UK in aid of the British Heart Foundation. She was the only woman to complete the five-week ride.

It took me a long time to get it organised, but eventually Anna moved into her own home in 1988. She then set

about getting sponsorship for a youth exchange to Africa and another to India with the YMCA.

Not long after returning from India, Anna developed a severe psychiatric illness. She came home to Melksham and I had a lot of work to do to organise appropriate help, as the local mental health team seemed totally overstretched.

Although I asked for occupational therapy, it was left

to me to find her interesting things to do.

I rang Scope and was introduced to Maggie Barker, a regional social worker. She visited Anna and later had the innovative idea of her joining a course at our local swimming pool for a certificate as assistant swimming teacher for people with disabilities.

This was a course for able bodied people to learn how to teach children with disabilities to swim. Anna got the certificate and she hopes to use her skills soon.

I felt that she needed some counselling to aid her recovery and through Scope found a local therapist. Luckily our GP funded this and Anna is now on the road to complete recovery.

She has moved temporarily back to Cheltenham, into residential accommodation, while she re-establishes herself. She has taken up sailing and is working with the Young Homeless Project and attending computer classes to update her skills. She plans soon to move back into her own flat.

As Anna says: "I have a determination to overcome my disability. I never give up hope and I encourage myself to help other people." As her mother, I would add: "Never take no for an answer!"

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DN9/97

# Letters to the Editor



*Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ  
 Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582  
 e-mail: Editor@DisabilityNow.org.uk

## Polling station beats postal vote

If I go to vote, I expect (no, I demand) to go inside and cast my own vote. I don't expect to be told that I should have used a postal vote, just because I'm disabled.

Voting is important. If polling stations are not accessible, how can we expect accessibility in less important areas, like cinemas and restaurants?

There is a problem Mr Shaw (see *DN letters August*) and congratulations to Scope for highlighting this issue.

And don't say that a postal vote is equal to an ordinary vote.

Going to a polling station means that I cast my vote with everyone else. A postal vote has to be in several days before polling day, denying me the right to listen to the last few days of campaigns and denying me the ability to consider late swings. That's discrimination.  
 Kevin Elliott  
 Weston-super-Mare  
 Somerset

In response to Jack Shaw's letter, our campaign, Polls Apart 2, acknowledges that for some disabled people a postal vote is their preferred means of voting.

However, our survey found that the vast majority of disabled people would prefer to cast their vote on election day in a polling station, on an equal basis with the non-disabled population.

Polling stations are in public buildings, schools, libraries, church halls, community centres. If they are not accessible to disabled people on election day, they are not accessible the rest of the year.

Casting a vote is the most basic contribution to the democratic process and Scope believes every citizen should be able to vote in the way he or she chooses. Polls Apart 2 shows that disabled people are currently being denied that right.

Jane Enticott  
 Scope Campaigns Department  
 (Tel: 0171-636 5020)

## Inferior service for 'inferior' clients?

I manage a small residential home in Kingston for people with a disability.

Because our residents have a physical disability, they cannot use standard vehicles and depend on taxi card and Dial-a-ride to maintain their independence.

I have become increasingly disappointed with both these services, but more so with the taxi card scheme. There are far too many forgotten bookings or taxis arriving an hour (sometimes more) later than booked.

I have heard all the excuses

and apologies possible, but I am also a taxi user and have never experienced the difficulties our clients have.

I have tried to figure out the reason for them being offered an inferior service, but I can only surmise that it is because they are regarded as inferior clients in some way.

Our residents are a minority; far fewer wheelchair users travel in taxis than able bodied people. But they travel to the same places and pay the same fare (even if it is subsidised). The only difference is that they

need to use a ramp to get in and out of the taxi – a task which takes all of one or two minutes (and for all I know the meter is running during this time).

I presume that if the service is lacking in Kingston, then it is also lacking elsewhere. It cannot be good business to force customers to look into alternatives. How have other readers fared?

David McNamara  
 Service Manager  
 Kingston Adult Unit  
 Kingston, Surrey

## Cars are not the whole answer, Sir Peter

Peter Large's article (*DN July*) suggests that the entire sustainable transport debate has passed him by. With even the RAC now recognising that cars can never be a universal solution, his assumption that car use is a key aspect of social integration is a bit out of date.

His assertion that "current technology makes it possible for virtually any disabled person to drive" will surprise quite a few people – those with visual disabilities for instance. In any case, not everyone who is disabled wants the social isolation of using cars all the time (whether driving or driven).

Ann Frye's article (*also July*) explains the (slow) impact of the Disability Discrimination Act. Public transport is gradu-

ally becoming more accessible and, as it does so, fewer disabled people will be dependent on cars.

Of course, many will still need to use them. Sir Peter should not confuse "need" with "desire", however. Various traffic reduction measures are at long last looking achievable, thanks in no small part to the Road Traffic Reduction Act, and are essential to control pollution and road danger.

It is counter-productive to decry traffic reduction policies on the basis that, were they to be implemented in a heavy handed manner, they could affect the genuine needs of disabled people who use cars.

Instead, let us discuss how to exempt such people, just as orange badge holders are

exempted from various parking restrictions. If it is "impossible" for out-of-town visitors to get into some town centres (which ones?), it is because of excessive numbers of cars clogging the roads.

Chris Wood and Sandra Bell  
 Centre for Independent Transport Research in London

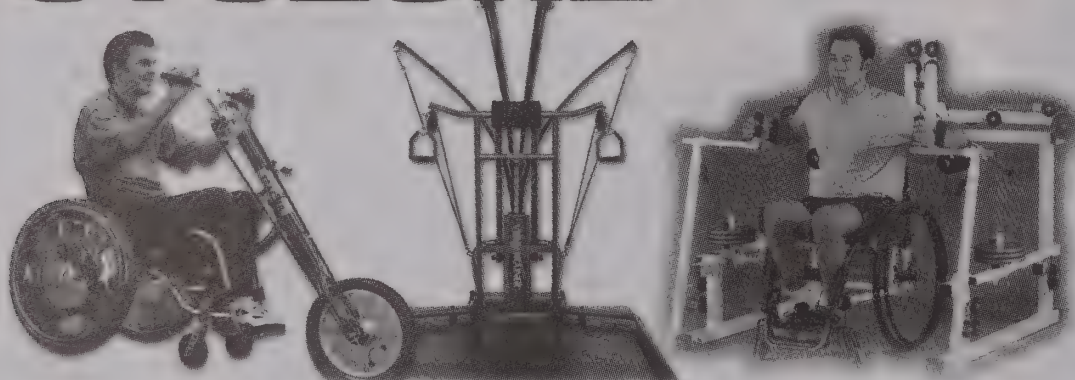
## Naidex care

We have written to Sue McMullen, chairperson of the Disabled Living Centre (*DN letters, August*) saying that the public has been and always will be welcome to visit any of the Naidex Care Management events.

Nicky Mason  
 Exhibition Director

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## DN's diary

By Dan Batten

### Crash landing

Air UK wins my prize for most ill informed airline of the month after their treatment of William Chambers who has ms. A frequent flyer, he was presented with a form asking about his disability, eg if it could be deemed "offensive" to fellow passengers, notably if the "patient" smells. Also, requests for information on arrangements for "collection and delivery of patient". Mr C claims

he's never seen such a form before, which transforms intelligent human into smelly package in three easy steps. Air UK gave Mr C an unreserved apology. Still, it should have its wings clipped.

### Catholic continuum

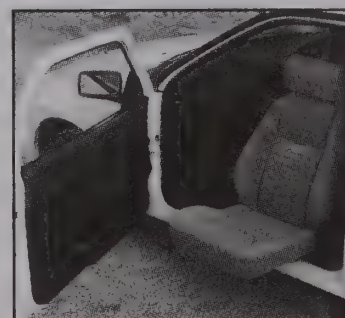
In *The Times* recently, Rev Tom Connelly, of the Catholic Media Office, upholds a disabled person's right to marry as long as they meet "normal requirements" – not spontaneously combusting when taking vows, or making paper airplanes from hymn sheets, etc.

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Direct payments put Gill Holland back in control of her own care

I need 24-hour care as I cannot do even the simplest of tasks but have often wondered why I persevere with my independence.

I am a very strong-willed person and thrive on a challenge. But challenge is an understatement as far as I can see, because circumstances have broken even my spirits in the last few years.

I am a woman in my forties living in my own adapted bungalow. It is a beautiful home and I intend to carry on living here for many more years.

The Isle of Wight Council used to sub-contract my care to agencies and I have had some amazing experiences with the staff who have been supplied to look after me.

I have to accept a complete stranger performing simple tasks for me, which is a very humbling experience. For someone who was an avid sportswoman, playing games at county level and coaching tennis and squash, the inability to do any task for myself is absolutely mind-boggling.

Like most women, I have always had certain moral codes, so when a complete stranger, especially if he is a male carer, has to pull down my pants and put me on the toilet, I have certain misgivings and wonder why my life has taken this horrendous downwards turn.

The average person going about their daily life would have no conception of the pain and suffering I have had to endure when I have had to sit for hours on my own with searing pain, especially in my legs and back, just waiting for someone to arrive to give me some relief. After two and a half hours I am longing for anyone to walk in the door.

There are thousands of carers and agencies supplying carers around the country, but are these people qualified to do the job? I know that for the most part they are very kind and willing and love taking care of those less fortunate than themselves, but actually have no training or medical knowledge.

This doesn't matter as long as they possess some grey matter and are able to work on their own with some initiative.

Often the agency had failed to organise a carer and so I sat and waited, desperate to go to the toilet. Invariably I wet myself due to nerves or while trying to press my emergency button attached to my watch

# My life – with care



In touch: Gill uses a voice-activated computer to write IAN PERT

strap, which is only possible if my hands had been put in the correct position by the last carer.

Otherwise I just sat and cried, wondering why, in the 20th century, anyone had to suffer like that.

Of course there was a problem with funding, as my

care manager reminded me, so I had to be left on my own for up to seven hours a day, unable to have a drink or go to the toilet.

My neighbours are too far away to hear my cries for help and because I cannot use the telephone, I find it very

frightening to think that I am so dependent on how much money is in the kitty, and that there must be many more people in a similar position.

This brings me to the carers that did at least arrive.

It was a relief that I have a good sense of humour when a lady in her fifties who tried to help me to the toilet declared she had just received her mobility allowance!

Due to rheumatoid arthritis in both knees she was registered disabled. Needless to say, she was not a lot of help and never came again.

During a four-month period, I had between 40 and 50 different carers. I had to explain everything about myself and the house, my medication and my condition over and over again until I thought I would go mad. In fact, I became more and more depressed and longed for my life to be over.

I began to dread who would be arriving next as some of the younger staff were unbelievably ignorant. One emptied an entire jar of mustard over some sausages and was really surprised that I couldn't eat the meal. "Is mustard hot?" she inquired. She did some cleaning with a feather duster, but not before she had removed the feathers and poked the cobwebs with the stick.

I had a male carer briefly, but I

never knew if he would arrive or not.

One afternoon he was supposed to be with me at 3.30pm, but his car had broken down so he got on a bus. I had been left on my own at 1.30pm and was desperate to go to the toilet, but at 4pm when he hadn't arrived I managed to press my alarm button.

The lifeline people contacted the agency who had no idea where my carer was and didn't come out to assist me themselves. No one arrived until the evening carer at 8.30pm – the chap who was supposed to come never arrived. You can imagine my distress – hungry, thirsty and wet.

Last July I started using the direct payment scheme to employ my own carers. I get £500 a week and can choose who I have in my house to look after me. The change in my life is enormous.

No longer do I have to live on my nerves wondering whether someone will turn up. I have chosen people who are reliable and conscientious and won't let me down.

I don't pay agency fees, which means I can use all the money on my care so I am very rarely left alone. How I ever survived the last year I will never know.

How many more people are suffering out there? Is this really what care in the community means?

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Trendsetters (left) : Ellie wears a lilac top (cotton, Etam, £12), stripey cardigan (acrylic, Etam, £25), and black bootleg trousers (polyamide, Marks & Spencer, £23). Hairband, Tammy, £2.50. Notebook, Tammy, £4. Both from Etam. John looks sporty in a black USA top (polyester/cotton, C&A, £15), black track pants (polyester mix, Bhs, from £12) and cap (nylon/polyamide, C&A, £3).

# Class



Hayley Kerr and Lisa work to find schoolw...

Ellie Mason and John Hayden were model pupils for our back to school fashion shoot.

They both go to the Ethel Davis School in Goodmayes, Essex, a mixed day school for young people between the ages of two and 19. They do not



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# Easy in the classroom



JAMIE FACER

When did their home-  
that gets top marks

school uniform so they can wear  
own clothes. Both Ellie and John  
wheelchair users and have cerebral  
ie, 15, loves bright colours and has  
known to wear sequins to school.  
tried a lilac and black outfit from  
n (top left): "I wouldn't wear this



day-to-day, but  
every now and  
then. I like the  
colours and the  
trousers are com-  
fortable. It's my  
kind of hair-  
band."

Mum, Suzanne,  
said: "I wouldn't  
have chosen it,  
but seeing it on  
her it's excellent,  
and serviceable as  
well."

John, 14,  
favoured the  
sporty yellow and  
black combina-  
tion from C&A  
and Bhs (top  
left). He said:  
"It's nice - I'd  
wear it to school  
as it's a bit sporty.  
Yellow is quite a  
change, but I like  
it. I like the hat  
too."

Mum, Phil, was  
impressed with  
the trousers:



"What I really like about them  
is the way they button all the  
way down the sides - really  
easy to get on for someone  
who can't put them on them-  
selves."

Although Ellie usually goes  
for short dresses, her  
favourite item was the long  
blue dress from Tammy: "I  
like all the different colour  
blues in it."

John fancied the trendy red  
tracksuit from C&A (right).  
He said: "I'd wear this to  
school. I might have chosen  
this. I like the label (on the T-  
shirt)."

John and Ellie approved of  
the current craze for all things

Take note (left): Ellie com-  
bines her pvc coat and lace  
trousers look with a sharp  
pink pencilcase, Tammy,  
£1.50, and black satchel,  
Tammy, £10.

orange. John said of his orange  
and brown combination  
(below left): "I'd definitely  
wear this, in and out of school.  
I like the colour of the shirt."

Ellie was also keen on the  
stylish black outfit from Bhs  
(above): "This outfit I like  
because the coat is shiny.

"I've never worn a beret before  
- it's very different to the kind of  
outfit I usually wear. I wouldn't  
wear the beret to school. Maybe  
the coat in winter."

John liked the red cord shirt  
from Marks & Spencer (above):  
"It's a nice dark shirt, comfort-  
able. But I like the orange one  
more."

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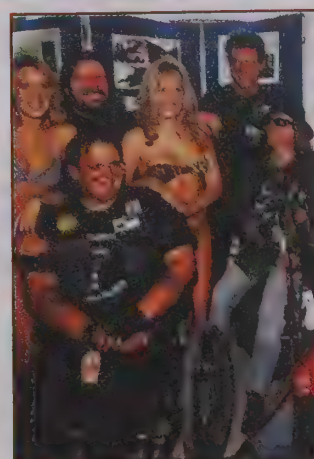
Bright kids (left): John passes the test in this burnt orange shirt  
(cotton, Marks & Spencer, from £13) and chocolate-brown  
jeans (cotton, Marks & Spencer, from £12). Ellie wears an  
orange jumper (acrylic, C&A, £17) with olive bootleg trousers  
(polyamide elastane lycra, Marks & Spencer, £23) and scrunchie  
(£1, C&A).

Top of the class (left): Ellie looks smart in a shiny black coat (pvc, Bhs,  
from £35), an aqua top with front ring detail (polyester mix, Bhs,  
from £14), black lace trousers (polyester mix, Bhs, from £18) and a  
yellow beret (100 per cent wool, C&A, £5). Satchel, Tammy, £10.  
John wears a dark red cord shirt (100per cent cotton, Marks &  
Spencer, from £13), and his own jeans and trainers.

Good sports (below): Ellie looks lovely in a long blue stripey  
dress (100 per cent polyester, Tammy, £18) and a navy track top  
with front zipper (cotton/polyester, Tammy, £18).  
John relaxes in a red and grey T-shirt (100 per cent cotton,  
C&A, £15), a red track top (100 per cent cotton, C&A, £14)  
and red track pants (100 per cent cotton, C&A, £8).



## What's in DN next month?



- CITY FOCUS**  
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# Heart of the Red Dragon

Does Cardiff, the premier city of Wales, breathe fury or fascination into disabled people? Lisa Hitchen finds out.

All the tourist brochures tell visitors they will be surprised by the Roman city of Cardiff. You have to make up your own mind exactly what surprises you, but this compact and flat capital can at least claim to surprise your pocket: it was voted "best value for money" city in a survey by the British Tourist Authority in 1997.

A maritime city, Cardiff Bay is currently undergoing a £2.4 billion transformation to create a waterfront park and new tourist attractions.

Cardiff is also a major business centre with influences from all over the world as well as its own uniquely Welsh heritage.

## Orientation

From London, use the M4 which connects with the M40 and M5 for traffic coming in from the north, or the M5 and M3 for motorists from the south. Orange badge holders can cross the Severn Bridge toll road free of charge.

Rail travellers will come in at Cardiff Central Station on Central Square which has lifts

to all platforms. For enquiries, British Rail, tel: (0345) 484950.

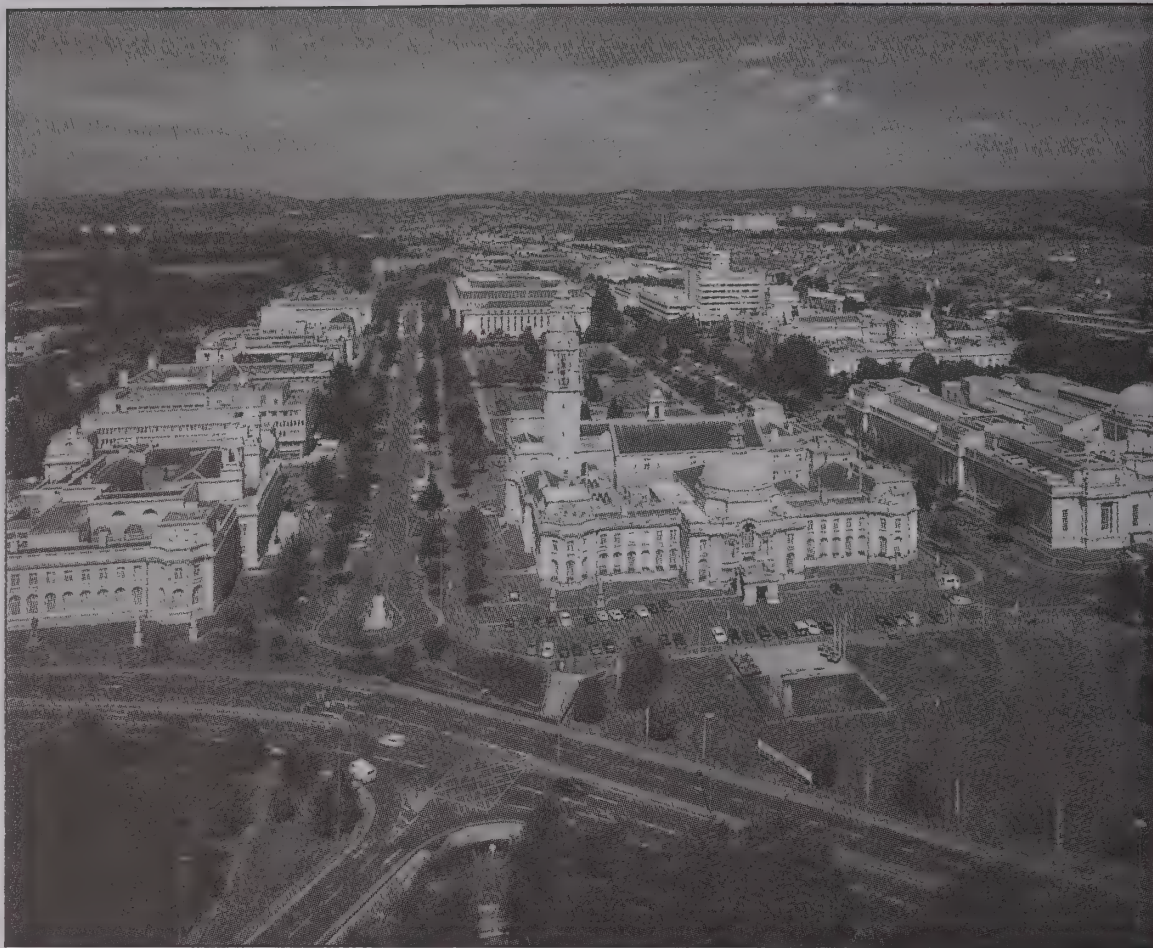
Getting around Cardiff on public transport can be expensive for wheelchair users as there are no accessible buses, although Cardiff Bus, tel: (01222) 666444 will have 15 low floor buses on the Grangetown-Heath route later this autumn.

Cardiff boasts a fleet of wheelchair accessible cabs and minibuses run by the Blackcabs Company, tel: (01222) 343343. Dragon Taxi, tel: (01222) 333333 also has three accessible minibuses.

Staff at Cardiff Tourist Information Centre, Central Station, tel: (01222) 227281 or Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre, Waterfront Park, tel: (01222) 463833, will help with enquiries.

Also, try Tripscope, tel: 0117-941 4094 and Travel Freedom, tel: (01443) 831000 for advice on planning trips to Cardiff.

VEST (Vehicle Emergency Service Transport), tel: (01222) 485036 provide Ring-a-Ride and community transport services for elderly and disabled people in the Cardiff area.



Cardiff's Civic Centre is flat, though many buildings are inaccessible

## Eating out

A wide range of international and traditional Welsh dishes are available in restaurants and cafes across Cardiff.

Try Sams Bar, tel: (01222) 345189 St Mary Street, for al fresco dining.

Alternatively, head south to Harry Ramsden's, Cardiff Bay, tel: (01222) 463334 for fish and chips.

Out of town is the Blue Anchor Inn, East Aberthaw, tel: (01446) 750329 for European or British food.

Theatre, Park Place tel: (01222) 887888 offer music, comedy and theatrical performances.

The Chapter Arts Centre, tel: (01222) 396061 is accessible and has disabled parking.

For more information, call Arts Disability Wales, tel: (01222) 377885.

If you fancy a trip out to sea, Waverley Excursions, tel: (01446) 720656 offers paddle steamer cruises to Penarth Pier, four miles from Cardiff.

## Accommodation

Cardiff Accommodation Hotline: (01222) 395173 is open Mon-Fri, 9-5.30 pm or use *Where to stay in Cardiff*, from Cardiff Marketing, tel: (01222) 667773 to select your own room.

Budget travellers should check out the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, tel: (01222) 300500.

Cardiff Youth Hostel, Wedal Road, tel: (01222) 462303 has one wheelchair accessible room and a wheel-in shower.

Four miles out of town is the Campanile Hotel, Caxton Place, Pentwyn, tel: (01222) 549 044 which has one accessible room although wheelchair users might find the steep carpark heavy going.

In the city centre is the Forte Posthouse Cardiff City, Castle Street, tel: (01222) 388681 and the Cardiff Marriott, Mill Lane, tel: (01222) 399944.

## Entertainment

Technique, a science museum on Stuart Street, Cardiff Bay, tel: (01222) 482517, is one of the latest hands-on attractions (see page 35 for special offer). St David's Hall, The Hayes, tel: (01222) 878500 and the New

## Park and shop

Cardiff Shopmobility, tel: (01222) 399355, on Bridge Street, is open 9-5pm Monday - Saturday. Parking, in the Oxford Arcade multi-storey car park, is free for all shopmobility users.

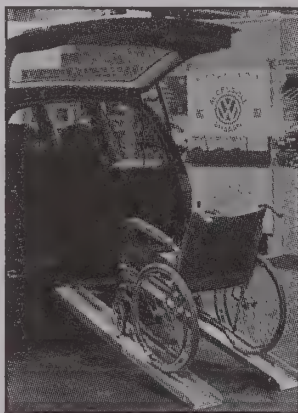
Voucher parking operates in Cardiff and anyone with an orange badge can park free in all voucher parking spaces throughout the city.

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# Wails in the Vales?

## It's time for change

Service cuts across Wales have hit the dis-

ability world hard, but many organisations are fighting back.

Disability Wales, tel: (01222) 887325, the national disability body, ran a mobile information service for eight years. Now the service has had to fold because of cash shortages.

Disability equality officer, Mick Standing, (*above*) says: "All the voluntary sector were hit very badly last year. There is now this big gap where there is no information out in the rural areas for disabled people."

But a lack of money has not threatened all projects. Mick says: "We are very proud of the disability equality training that has been developed in Wales. We have a growing network of trainers and are training staff in many

organisations. This is vital because no matter how much you legislate or tell non-disabled people what the issues are, they often don't understand without training."

Efforts to maintain services and develop new ones are top of the agenda at the Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People, tel: (01222) 255611.

Set up five years ago, the charity moved into its first official premises last October after receiving council funding.

Director, Rhian Davies, says: "We are the only active coalition in Wales and next month will have the first independent living scheme in the country which will provide personal assistants for people with disabilities and help them with employment and education opportunities."

Graham Findlay, an access development worker for

Voluntary Action Cardiff (VAC), tel: (01222) 485722 is less positive.

"Many public buildings such as the university are not at all accessible yet there is no legal

herself as an active coordinator across different groups.

"I have concentrated on marrying together the needs of people with HIV and Aids with those of disabled people.



Fighting back: Sally Fowler and Graham Findlay of VAC

remedy to make access better in educational establishments so this is a problem."

Sally Fowler, a development officer for the Disability Forum, also run by VAC, sees

"One problem is that people with HIV on disability benefits could lose them because of new drugs which are lengthening life. This is one area in which groups can work together."

Big things are planned for Cardiff over the next few years. The European Summit is being held here next year and, in 1999, the Rugby World Cup.

This month, Welsh people can vote for their own assembly. But what will the proposed changes mean for disabled people?

Rhian Davies, of the Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People, is hoping her group can help bring about real change.

"What we would like to see in all the developments that are taking place is that the politicians take on board disability issues so that Cardiff could be a model of good practice."

Carol Thomas, of Disability Wales, is also hopeful. "There will be great opportunities if it does happen. There will be a lot of change and we will be right in the thick of things."

## University challenged



Professor Antonia Jones (*left*) loves Cardiff, loves her job, loves her five litre Trans-AM and

loves her home in the Brecon Beacons.

A professor in computer science at the University of Wales, she is currently researching computer programmes that can mimic brain function.

"I've been an academic all my life and, on the whole, being in a wheelchair hasn't been a major problem.

"I've found Cardiff to be one of the better places for a wheelchair user and I think

there are tremendous efforts to try and make the university reasonably accessible, such as plans to create a disabilities officer in the personnel department.

"There are problems though. One of them is to do with the modular structure of degree courses, which cause problems for disabled people because it means moving about the campus and it is not always possible to do this quickly.

"The students' union building itself is not wheelchair friendly in terms of access. The only way to get in, as far as I know, is using a lift from the ground floor and that is locked so you have to call in advance."

*A disability statement is available for potential students and staff, tel: (01222) 874610*

Parents and children enjoy an afternoon's play in the Welsh Institute of Sport's soft floor gymnasium (*right*).

Lets Play to Grow, a family support group for children with special needs, meets every week at St. Anne's Scout Hall in Roath.

The group, funded by Scope, also welcomes non-disabled siblings, whose needs are sometimes overlooked.

The group has regular contact with Scope social worker, Sally Mackenzie, who offers help and advice.

"I don't feel disillusioned at all in my work. I am always able to say to someone 'I've come across someone else who is in a similar position to you.'

"Then I am able to put them in touch with each other and that can be helpful because people often feel very isolated."

Tel: (01222) 795061



## Debts drag-on

Since its inception ten years ago the Cardiff and District Hearing Impaired Support Group has campaigned hard to improve services for the deaf community in the Cardiff area.

Yet there is still a lot of work to be done. Secretary of the group, Cedric Moon, says: "We have a problem reclaiming interpreting costs from service providers such as hospital trusts and even the South and East Wales PACT (Placing, Assessment and Counselling Team). "We have had to complain to the Ombudsman in some cases when our small invoices have been refused."

Tel: (01222) 825518

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# Artistic dream come true

Dreamspace is the latest stage of a continuous evolving public art project by Maurice Agis.

It changes our perception of the everyday, yet remains a part of everything, welcoming everyone regardless of age, culture or abilities. It embraces the idea that we all have a lot in common, shared through the experience of space and colour, together with the sounds that float around.

The electronic music that is part of the experience was created in collaboration with Stephen Montague. It is centred around an exploration of space and colour with an interaction and awareness of the vibrations created by all these experiences.

To enter the work, shoes are removed and a coloured cape is put on (in an adult this is meant to produce a sense of the child within).

The sculpture consists of 91

oval shapes made from very thin PVC in different colours. These form interconnected chambers, filled with air. It is difficult to describe in words what is almost a non-verbal

experience. The pure colours merge and fuse and reflect on visitors. There is no time limit to one's stay; it is a "timeless" zone.

There is an organic feel about it all. Many children with special needs were there, showing pure joy and wonder. I spoke to children and mothers, who, without exception, found it a peaceful experience, yet full of energy. Dreamspace has great educational value and one hopes it will be recognised as such. The project runs on Shepherd's Bush Green until 7 September.

Gioya Steinke

*Magic Air, Chisenehale Studios, Chisenehale Road, London E3 5QZ, tel: 0181-981 1916.*



## Television

Chris Davies

With almost a complete dearth of disability tv around, thank goodness for the Channel 4 season Access! All Areas (see page six).

I presume this title refers to the sheer variety of formats used. Yes, there were many different styles adopted, but this itself is no guarantee of quality. Take the documentaries. My preference was *Going Underground* (2 August).

This was a very honest portrayal of direct action demonstrators, following someone on their first demo. Although initially she showed little reservation, when the day was over she showed much reluctance to join again. I admire their nerve but wonder whether they are honest with themselves about the reality of getting things done.

For Channel 4, there is no doubt that the central point of the season lay in *House Gang* (2 August). This was a situation comedy made by Australian tv.

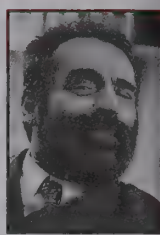
The producers clearly found a resource of good actors, most of whom have learning difficulties and were able to put them to good use. The able-bodied actors appeared highly comfortable in their parts and the whole concept gelled.

I have only one reservation: To bring that many disabled people together you need a format to convince the audience this is a realistic setting and not simply one contrived for the purpose of bringing disabled people together. If *House Gang* continues, it is mainly on the strength and charm of its characters. Well done to all concerned.

There was also *When You Remember Me* (30 July), an American drama about a teenager forced to attend a nursing home, who demonstrates until he successfully manages to find other accommodation for himself and the other disabled residents.

Though the lead actor is surrounded by genuinely disabled people, he was a well known non-disabled actor, Fred Savage. Pity Channel 4 couldn't have chosen a film which stars a disabled person. The strength of a very strong story was diluted.

Access! All Areas was surprisingly even in its quality. More please.



## Film

Michael Turner

Mel Gibson has spent much of his career playing characters on the edge.

From his early *Mad Max* films, Gibson's roles have frequently been characters on the verge of a mental illness.

In *Conspiracy Theory* (general release) Gibson's character, Jerry, has an explicit



mental health problem. Unfortunately, this is not one of Gibson's more earnest projects, but another big bucks venture.

Jerry is introduced as a harmless version of De Niro's Travis Bickle in *Taxi Driver*. His behaviour is just slightly eccentric – believing in the whole range of conspiracy theories which make up so many urban myths, and scanning every daily newspaper in search of new plots. He expounds on these theories at length to passengers in his taxi and continues his monologues even when the cab is empty. In the early stages of the film the portrayal of mental illness is

very slight, frequently veering into making the issue an object of fun.

This being a Hollywood thriller, Jerry does become caught up in a conspiracy, which leads Gibson into violence.

But, unlike most other star-performers, Mel Gibson can act and there are times when he shows Jerry as being genuinely vulnerable.

The story could almost work as a metaphor about the relationship between the mental health system and its users, although with this type of movie it is a case of "any similarity between this film and real life is entirely coincidental".



Mel in action WARNER BROTHERS

## Deaf arts magazine is shaping up nicely

The third edition of the *Deaf Arts UK* magazine published by SHAPE London is good value and contains a lively mix of news, reviews, BSL interpreted performance listings, poetry, reports and training opportunities.

It would, however, have benefited from a letters page, espe-

cially as there have been two previous issues. There is a delightfully zippy column by Maggie Woolley on deaf arts. Hopefully this will be a regular feature as Maggie writes with both humour and verve.

Deaf arts has established itself well over the years and thanks

to those at SHAPE, it continues to develop.

*Deaf Arts UK* has an interesting page devoted to deaf arts past, with features including one on Arthur Dimmock – deaf art historian.

In a unique proposition, editor Norma McGlip very generously

offers the chance for a deaf reader to edit a future issue of the magazine. Now's your chance to become a mover and shaker.

Kit Wells

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A warm welcome awaits all our guests old and new

# Sensations in the salon

Rod Hermeston gets expert advice on hair and make-up for blind people

Looking good is as important for blind and visually impaired people as anyone else, but it is harder getting your hair and make-up right. Which is why Britain's leading make-up artists and hair-stylists sacrificed one Sunday in July to give 100 people a free make-over.

The event at the London

School of Fashion was organised by make-up artist Jenny Jordan, who appears on the tv programme *Style Challenge*. It was backed by Action for Blind People and the Royal National Institute for the Blind – a day which they hope to repeat.

"Blind people have gone away



No tears of a clown: Amanda gets expert make-up advice from Emma Cotch

ASHLIN LOGAN



able to recreate the same looks with the tips given to them," said Ms Jordan.

Other top stylists and artists included Trevor Sorbie, Peter Forrester, Sara Raeburn, and Antoinette Beenders.

Amanda Belcher, 28, got tips on her make-up. She said: "I usually do not wear it because I am afraid of walking out the door looking like a clown."

Peter Forrester, who cut Amanda's hair, said: "I've

(Left) Trevor Sorbie snips at Susanna Hancock (Right) Peter Forrester cuts Amanda Belcher's hair

listened to Amanda's needs and aspirations and want her to

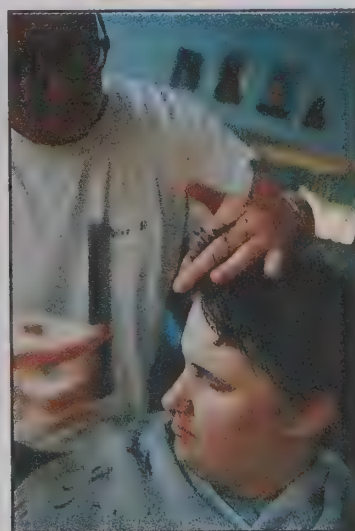
look good with no effort."

Susanna Hancock, who is in her early 40s, had her hair cut by Trevor Sorbie and make-up advice from Sara Raeburn.

"I've learned that you can improve how you look with the most basic and simple things."

General tips included using colourless mascara which does not smudge, lip gloss and cream eye shadow which can both be applied with a finger, and a two-in-one foundation. Hair-stylists concentrated on styles which were easy to maintain.

Make-up artist Sara Raeburn said: "It is important to learn the few things that suit you."



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# Test drives galore

Martin Renouf, Julie O'Keeffe and Rod Hermeston report

**Martin Renouf writes:** The eighth Mobility Roadshow took place at the familiar Department of Transport's Research Laboratory in Crowthorne, 11-13 July, in good weather – apart from a short downpour on the Sunday.

The most important feature of the show was still the opportunity to test drive adapted cars.

Small three-door automatics are of general interest to disabled drivers and at least two recent additions, the Peugeot 106 and the Citroen Saxo, were at the show. Both had three-speed automatic transmission.

There seems to be a trend towards fitting three speed automatic gearboxes in small cars. With the mix of modern driving conditions, usually urban and motorway, I think this is a backward step. Higher engine revs usually mean higher fuel consumption and more noise.

The Toyota Starlet and the Suzuki Swift (not at the show) also have three speed automatic gearboxes, while the revised Renault Clio has a choice.

When I test drove the Peugeot it felt quiet and smooth, but you shouldn't notice much difference on the test track at 40mph.

Renault demonstrated the Clio Zoom, which is a manual five-speed gearbox with an automated clutch system but no clutch pedal. I was looking

forward to driving this car. It was better than the converted clutch systems I have driven in the past, and even beeps at you if you try to engage a wrong gear. This system has been around for some years on the continent but is only now available in a right hand drive version. It was a popular test drive at the show. For driving licence purposes, DVLA have classified it as an automatic.

Another new model from Renault was the Mégane Scenic, a small MPV version based on the Mégane floor pan. It will be available with an automated clutch later this year.

I test drove the automatic model – but only at the second time of trying because of the queue. It is good for the driver who wants a higher driving seat and the wheelchair user who needs a low rear for loading their chair. Allied to automatic or automated clutch options, both with power steering, these features will make the Scenic a popular vehicle. It is also likely to be

cheaper than the Mercedes A Class MPV competitor



Martin Renouf in the Hyundai Coupé: "a good package" NEIL BOARDMAN



The Duchess of Gloucester, who opened the Roadshow, stopped to talk with DN editor Mary Wilkinson and meet the team



Jordan Manning of Reading tries the Panthera Micro

available next year. Renault helpline, (0800) 387626.

Back to small three-door hatch or coupés, and I was impressed by the deal provided by Hyundai for Motability lease, hire or direct purchase with its 1.3i Accent Coupé. This version includes the "convenience pack", comprising 4-speed automatic gearbox, power steering and an adjustable steering column. I managed to stow my manual folding wheelchair behind the front seats and it felt fine to drive. A good package. Hyundai helpline (0800) 9981981.

I was pleased to see that Skoda was at the show, this time with cars to drive. Comments have been made about heavy steering on its cars and I wanted to see for myself. Skoda forestalled any comment, though, by making models available with power steering. I drove the Felicia Estate adapted with the Guido Simplex clutch system, ring throttle and power assisted steering. The only problems were my inexperience with this system. They say next year they will even have automatic versions. Tel: (0345) 745745.

While wandering around other parts of the show, I noticed a sort of squashed MPV looking vehicle. It turned out to be a wheelchair passenger conversion

## Flexibility in Motion

### THE ~~Euroflex~~ COMPACT WHEELCHAIR

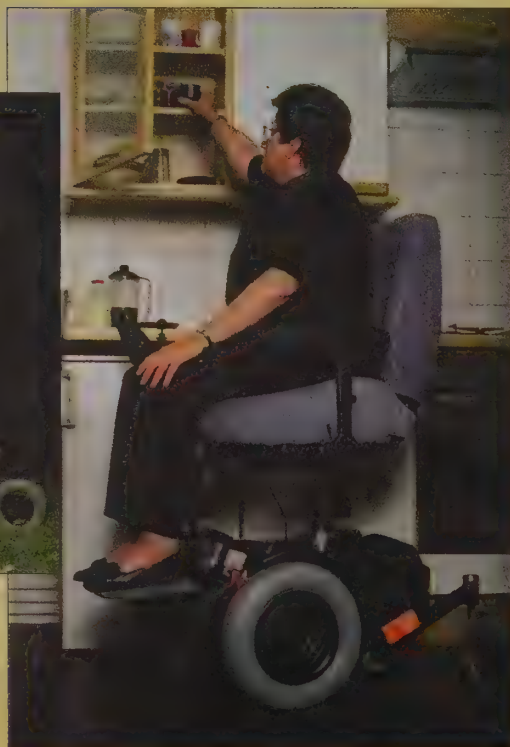
The **Euroflex Compact** is an electric wheelchair which is ideally suited for both outside and inside use. Its rugged chassis construction allows it to travel even over rough ground with ease, while always maintaining four wheel ground contact for complete stability. It is also able to climb kerbs up to 7 cms (about 3 inches).

Front wheel drive makes it easy to manoeuvre the chair inside in confined spaces, and a powered seat height adjustment up to 22 cms allows the user access to areas which otherwise would be out of reach.

The chair is operated from an arm rest remote control box with easy to manage touch control buttons. There is a choice of seats to suit individual needs, with the option for a powered seat and back recline and tilt, and footrest elevation. For full details of the **Euroflex Compact** wheelchair and available options and accessories call:

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Mogo designer Chris Fields from Twickenham built the scooter for his wife – on the kitchen table



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DN

# Beats Naidex on new chairs

Julie O'Keeffe writes: I came across a lot of interesting new equipment as well as modifications to existing ranges and "lookalike" equipment.

The Mogo is an innovative idea for people with distance walking problems who do not want a conventional wheelchair or scooter. It resembles a very small 3-wheel scooter with a narrow, short wheelbase, rotating tiller bar with side to side movement and a stool/perch seat. The accelerator is in the right handhold, like a motorbike.

Due to its compact size and innovative tiller, it could be unstable on corners or slopes, but it is very manoeuvrable, light, and easy to stow in a car. The designer, Chris Fields, is looking for a manufacturer. £600-750. Tel: 0181-898 3565.

The Vicair Academy Dry Air Cushion range from Gerald Simonds offers a pressure relief cushion for high risk users that is lightweight, requires minimal set up and is maintenance free.

The cushion has air-filled pyramid shaped capsules said to be "strong enough for a car to drive over with out puncturing". £270. Tel: (01296) 436557.

Raymar is well-known for stand-up wheelchairs. The Levo Active Easy is for people with good finger movement, arm strength and control. It has many features of a high performance/lightweight chair, eg adjustable backrest angle, seat angle, rear wheel position and quick release wheels, but at 40lbs (30lbs without wheels) is obviously heavier. About £3,100, but could be provided free by the employment service if you can justify needing it for work. Tel: (01491) 578446.

## Australian outback chair

The Saracen is a 4-wheel drive, off road, kerb climbing power chair, originally designed for the Australian outback. Four motors provide maximum power and large balloon tyres set to the correct pressure help ensure a smooth ride. Range

about 45 miles. £4,500. GBL Wheelchair Services, tel: 0181-5695380.

The Panthera Micro is a tiny, rigid-framed, lightweight wheelchair for children aged one to five – a small version of an adult high performance chair. One wheel at the front makes it very manoeuvrable but less stable, so not for use outdoors. At £900 not cheap when you consider how fast children grow. The Panthera Bambino is for children aged four to 12. £1,000. GBL (see above) or Scandic Rehab, tel: (01484) 541375.

Days Medical Aids now have a powered wheelchair based on the popular Shoprider scooter, for indoors and outdoors. £1,795, tel: (01656) 857495.

The Enigma range from Wheelchair Technology is not particularly innovative but they cost less than competitors like the Suntec SX. £699. Tel: (01642) 241449.

Scandinavian Mobility (previously HNE Mobility) introduced the Helix 9 (£459), and the Spirea (£595), a good-looking, folding, self-propelled chair with an aluminium frame that is standard issue in Scandinavia. In contrast, the Kuschall Design wheelchairs offer a wide range of lightweight, high performance chairs in different colours. I was glad to see their literature mentioned older people. Tel: (01252) 547939.



58,000 people went to this year's Roadshow in sweltering sunshine

## What did you think?

Rod Hermeston reports: Most visitors to the Roadshow were positive about it.

Paul Kernott, recently spinally injured, said: "I didn't realise how important this could be until I became disabled myself."

Denise Webber, national chairman of the Disabled Drivers' Association, said: "It's an excellent show this year. It looks much bigger than before."

Margaret John, of Kent, who has scoliosis and uses an electric wheelchair, has been to every show. "It's been very useful this year because I was looking for a car I could drive from a wheelchair. It would have been impossible to see it if it were not for the show. The facilities are fine. An ideal venue."

Anne Boyce travelled from Dorset with her five-year-old

daughter Alex, who has cerebral palsy. "It is essential for people like us because you can come here and see what is available. We are looking for a vehicle for when she is bigger. We have already seen more than we could possibly have seen if we went round individual garages."

Ronald Wright, of London, had a long walk from the car park to the show. "There is limited seating for people like myself who have a walking disability, and my wife was very upset about the toilets: they are in a very poor condition. But the show is interesting."

Dave Mansfield of Chingford, Essex, has a spinal injury. He said: "They should have one every year; here you have all the dealers and cars fitted with hand controls. It is a bit crowded, though."



The Mégane Scenic: convenient low rear for wheelchair stowage

in the Chairman range by Gowrings Mobility, based on the Citroen Berlingo van.

I have noticed the vans on the road, but this is the first time I have seen a converted version. The front cabin space for the driver is the same height as the rear area for the wheelchair occupant, so it looks less like a Popemobile and more like a little MPV. Tel: (01635) 529500)

A problem with many small vans is that they only do diesel versions often with power steering but not automatic transmission.

I think there is a need for a small wheelchair passenger-carrying vehicle which can be driven by a more mobile but still disabled member of the family.

## Hand controls

Hand controls are becoming more and more sophisticated. It was good to see one manufacturer exhibit a revision of the basic throttle/brake system.

A J Engineering (Mobility) displayed a different version of the push brake and radial throttle. Instead of the throttle control being the brake lever moving down towards the driver seat, it was a throttle lever working a cable within the brake lever.

The advantages of a radial control were still there. It was easier to hold for motorway driving instead of the tiring hand grip of the push/pull system. All the space between the steering wheel and the dashboard could be used for brake movement if necessary. Also, the lever could extend out further than the steering wheel for greater leverage. One would also expect that a car could be held on a hill with the normal brake instead of the handbrake before moving off. Tel: (01323) 847250.

David Griffiths is recovering from a motor accident.

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Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

### A Christian plea

You invited opinions on the subject of religion in relationship to counselling.

I could never think of myself going to a counsellor, particularly a newspaper agony aunt, but I do recognise that some people find help and comfort from these sources.

The problem as I see it is that Christian teaching per se has a poor attitude towards equal opportunities and civil rights.

I personally do not accept any religious teachings and believe that these religious institutions have shown no interest in treating disabled people as complete human beings.

In particular, I wish that public services, voluntary groups and information resources would learn that rejection of Christianity by someone does not mean that that person is a non-citizen with no equal rights at all.

David, Milton Keynes

Many thanks for your letter and I'm honoured that you considered writing to me as an agony aunt.

I have to admit that I have never written to such a person either, but I very much welcome DN readers' letters who, in any case, just know me as Ann.

It is important for us to consider the issues you raise and to what extent people who advise/counsel may be affected by their personal beliefs.

I would welcome hearing what other readers think about your suggestion that the Christian religion has a poor, and I know some would say patronising, attitude towards disabled people's civil rights.

### Home, sweet home

I felt I must write to you about my experience of moving into a residential care home. I know it isn't popular or politically correct to say so, but it was the best decision I've ever made.

I had received regular help from social services but I felt that I had struggled for long enough. If I had decided to go in for direct payments I know I just couldn't have faced coping with the hiring, firing and organising of people coming into my home. Furthermore,

I've never been domestically inclined.

Now meals appear as if by magic and we do have choices. Clothes are washed and ironed and I don't have to get anyone to do it. Instead of worrying about how domestic chores are to be done and by whom, I relax and indulge in a few hobbies.

I nip down to the nearby village in my electric wheelchair and chat to the locals; I go to evening classes and as well as learning some interesting subjects, I have made some good friends.

When I lived in my own flat, despite having a number of friends, I was desperately lonely. Not anymore.

I can now choose to be by myself or I can mix with other residents. My advice is not to be put off by those who gasp with horror at any suggestion of a home, but to make a very careful choice.

Mary, Kent

Thank you for your letter and I'm glad you wrote as you did.

I think that as well as campaigning for rights to independence, we need to press for action to ensure that care homes are made more like the real thing, where residents make choices about their lifestyle.

Improvements in the way homes are run are also needed, rather than suggesting that they are quite beyond the pale for any reasonable person.

### No disability pride

Some time ago in your column I read a letter by a reader who was proclaiming his pride in being disabled.

How can anyone in their right mind accept disability, let alone be proud of it? That smacks of hypocrisy. No one would choose disability – even the mildest sort.

We endure it. We put a brave face on it. We make the best of a bad situation because we cannot change it, but no one is proud of it.

Until you become disabled you cannot possibly understand such a disastrous change in your lifestyle. I would love to transfer my problems to the House of Commons.

Eileen, Poole

I am very interested to hear your views. I suspect that while you would receive strong opposition views from those who have already proclaimed their pride in themselves as disabled people, you would also find plenty of people who would support you.

You said you would love to transfer your problems to the House of Commons. We now have the very first MP who uses a wheelchair and this will certainly raise awareness among MPs.

### Not to be sniffed at

"Get sexy", I read in *The Guardian* a few months ago.

Ever alert to such suggestions, and needing that

extra bit of pulling power as a disabled man, I went on to read that the right sort of body odours can trigger desire more effectively than a bottle of Obsession.

Apparently, too many of us have been neglecting our pheromones – chemical messengers which are very attractive to potential sexual partners. It seems we are so obsessed with hygiene that we wash these away along with the nasty smells.

Perhaps I should stop worrying about my wheelchair spoiling my image, throw out the aftershave and let my pheromones send out the signals. Apparently, the slightest whiff of pheromones sends most mammals into a sexual frenzy, so it might work for us humans. I'm going to give it a try.

Jeremy, Guildford

I think you've got something – give it a go. Personally, I've always thought people go over the top about hygiene – no, don't move away.

But you can go too far, and reduce the fun time by spending ages in the bathroom. Between you and me and the bed post, I hate manly smells covered up with aftershave, talc and the rest, and have never understood why women have to drench themselves in perfume.

Once you get the nose suitably attuned, it's a lot of fun picking up the messages.



### In a Crisis

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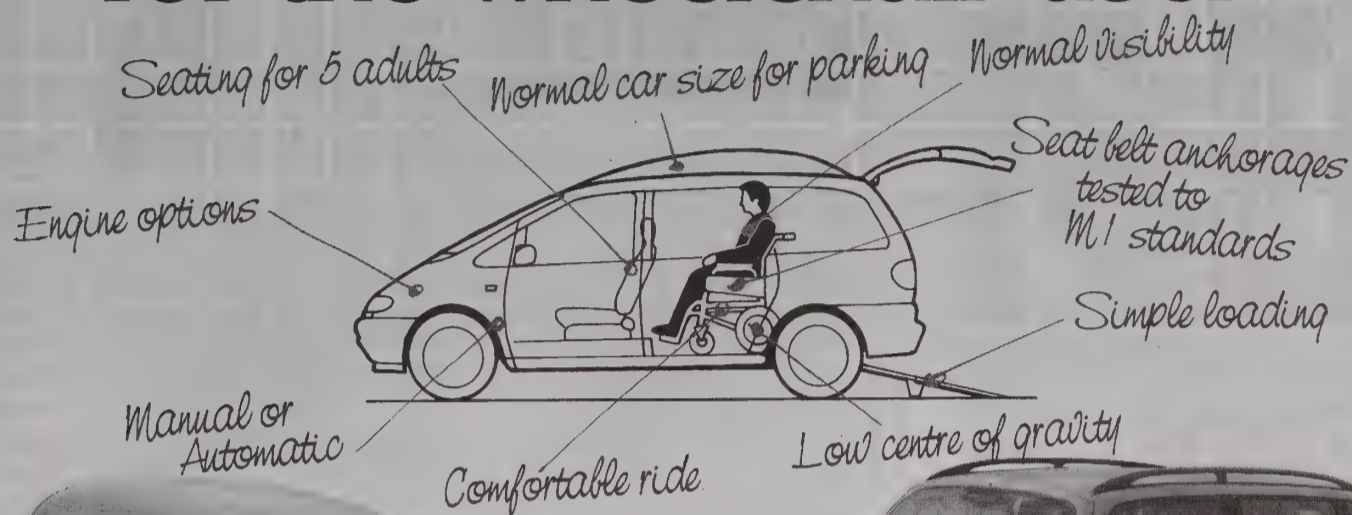


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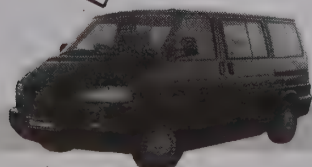
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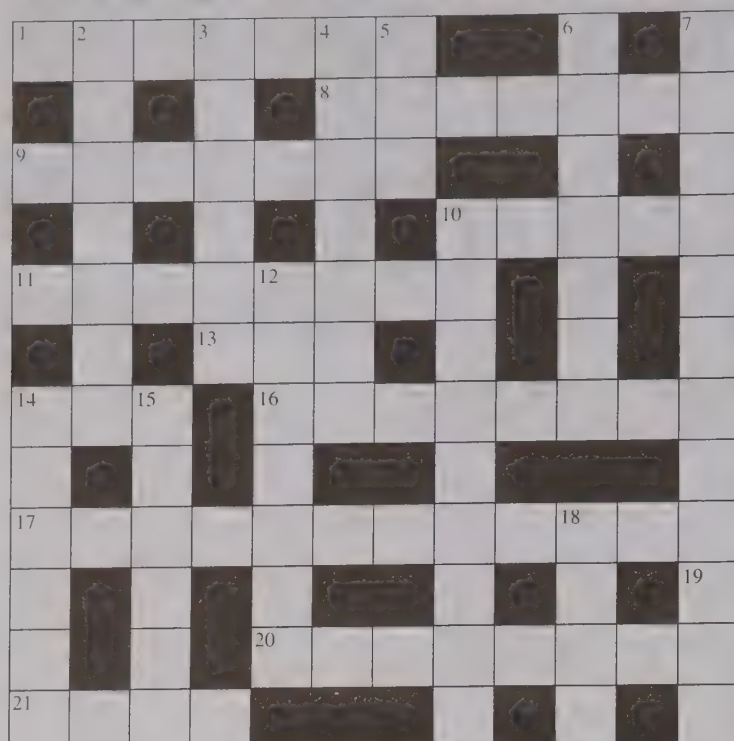


Nissan Serena



Nissan Cargo 60

# DN's crossword



## ACROSS

1. Speak to (7)
8. Cute (7)
9. Carer (7)
10. Stomach (5)
11. Tool raid (anag)
13. About to happen or arrive (3)
14. Put together (3)
16. Walking aids (8)
17. Lop hair cage (anag)
20. Sane nest (anag)
21. Personal atmosphere (4)

Answers on page 30  
COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

## DOWN

2. Deprived of clothing or decoration (7)
3. Bawdy (6)
4. Jumper (7)
5. Man's title (3)
6. Hungarian stew (7)
7. Top of the range (4,4)
10. Rail butto (anag)
12. Sale with unfixed prices (7)
14. American state (6)
15. Academic or medic (6)
18. Scottish landscape feature (4)
19. Donkey (3)

## Attention all cartoonists!

Are you a budding artist who's great at creating eye-catching cartoons? If so, send your creations (any medium will do) to DN and we'll try to feature them on our pages. Send to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

## Your stars

By DN's astrologer  
Marion Stanton



### VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

Mercury moves forward from the 11th and the full moon opposes your sign on the 23rd. It might be best to think before you speak (or shout). Sparks could fly at the end of September but, if you make the effort to keep your cool they could turn to a warm glow of deeper understanding.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

Venus leaves your sign on the 12th. Take the opportunity to forge or further your romantic relations by then if you can. When the sun enters your sign from the 23rd you may find your focus going more towards your own needs and you'll want the support of loved ones.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

Action speaks louder than words this month. Don't try to persuade. Show by example instead. As Venus enters your sign on the 12th you could practice a little of that action

on those you love. The passionate approach is the way to build a new relationship.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

You are having to rethink priorities at the moment. Face the challenges that come to you this month and you might be able to share the wisdom and obtain personal gain in the future. It might feel like all hard work now but laying the right foundation will help you to find your freedom later on.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

The dust should be settling after a very active period. Don't try to negotiate any deals. You may have energy and inspiration but perseverance is more important now. Keep on track if you can, despite the temptation to wander from your path.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius but you don't try

and make your mark on the world this month. Give yourself a little time before you share ideas with others. Take advice (and listen to it) before you make your move.

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

Opposition from Mercury could spark off arguments this month but a positive aspect from Mars could bring some support from a male friend or associate. The full moon in your sign on the 23rd will make those dreams of yours all the more desirable but the attainment of your desires takes effort as well as wishful thinking.

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

Venus goes out of opposition this month so you might be able to look for more support from loved ones. Minor irritations continue to annoy but major flare ups are avoidable. Spend some time thinking about long term plans and putting down roots.

### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

There is still some tension in a relationship, perhaps at work. Someone stubborn just won't be budged. You're pretty determined yourself but you might find that giving a little rope to someone else pays dividends. If nothing else it will at least keep your blood pressure down to take a relaxed attitude.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 22)

September could be a month of niggles and minor frustrations. The creative urge is still with you but the production is not so easy. Don't try and rush any jobs this month. Extra care is required despite the temptation to rush to get things finished.

### CANCER (June 23-July 23)

Things are looking up on the love front. There should be space for some passionate embrace in September. You've worked hard all summer and it might be time to give yourself a well earned break for fun and relaxation.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

Your emotions are running high this month. This could go one of two ways. Into love or loathing. Slight disagreements could turn into the clash of the Titans. This needn't be the case. Take a deep breath before you decide battle strategy and you might avoid the full force of the emotional hurricane.

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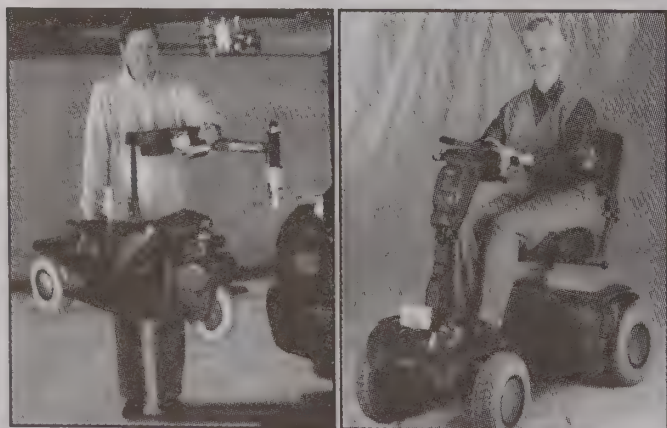
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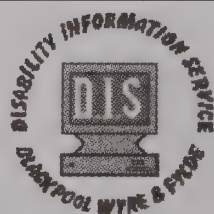
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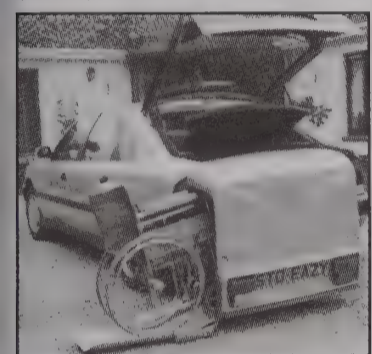
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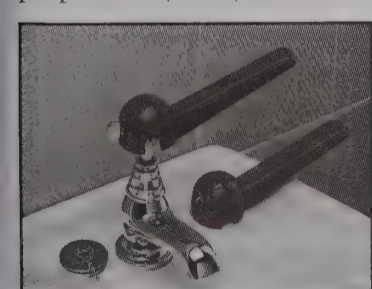
Opening your car door at night can be hazardous. Use a Brightsite reflective sticker, new from Momentum Marketing, to alert passing motorists and cyclists. The high-visibility reflector comes in a set of four – two large and two small. £1.95 incl p&tp. Tel: (01604) 753942.

Launched at this year's Mobility Roadshow, the Sto-Eazy Traveller (*below*) is a convenient new way to transport a wheelchair. The lockable system at the rear of your vehicle does away with struggling to stow a wheelchair in the boot or back of the car. One side opens to act as a ramp to the ground. £950 (plus VAT if applicable). Tel: (01603) 720246.



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Reader Barry Brooks is pleased with the new Kurtzweil Voice Plus. The computer package uses your voice to create text with a vocabulary of 200,000 built-in words. Voice Plus works in Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. You'll need 16 megabytes of ram, a Pentium processor or better, and a soundblaster 16 compatible soundcard. Barry says: "It can do about 70 wpm with 97 per cent accuracy." £85 + VAT from Talking Technologies, tel: 0171-602 4107.

## What's on

The Scottish Association for the Deaf (SAD) has launched a new City and Guilds course, *Deaf sign language tutors training*. One weekend every month from September 1997 to March 1998, at Glasgow Central Hotel. Closing date 31 August. Details from SAD, Moray House Institute, Heriot-Watt University, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ.

The University of Brighton is hosting a seminar, *Removing Barriers*, along with East Sussex Fire Brigade to discuss the access issue in the area, on 24 September. Contact Solveig Grover, University of Brighton, Watts Building, Moulescoomb, Brighton BN2 4GJ, tel: (01273) 642501.

The Relative Association is holding a workshop, *Relatives groups in residential care and nursing homes*, 29 September, at Cartwright Gardens, London WC1. It is aimed at managers, staff, relatives and friends of homes involved in relatives' groups. Contact Pat Haysey, Relatives Association, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SN, tel: 0171-916 0515.

Does the Community Really Care?, the Mencap and Gateway Annual Conference and Exhibition, 3-5 October at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Contact the Mencap National Centre, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT. Tel: 0171-696 5547/5575.

The Disability Alliance Educational and Research Association is running a series of training programmes on Tuesdays, 7 October-25 November. Subjects include Incapacity Benefit and care in the community. Contact Vincent or Dominic, Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA, tel: 0171-247 8776.

Special Needs Information Fair, 16 October 1997, looks at caring for children and young people with special needs and is open to parents, carers and professionals. For details, contact Sarah Mears, Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EA.

Disability North Exhibition '97 is at Gateshead International Stadium, 15-17 October. Contact Richard Walton, Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle NE3 1PH. Tel: 0191-284 0480, minicom: 0191-285 7261.

The Special Interest Group in Cerebral Palsy is holding a meeting, *Visual Impairment and Cerebral Palsy*, on 16 October, at the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 14 Bedford Row London WC1R 4ED. Contact Rose Bacon, tel: 0181-531 3426.

The Royal College of Nursing Race and Ethnicity Forum is hosting the conference *Nursing Towards Equality*, 18 October. Contact Danielle Rawstron, RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB, tel: 0171-647 3576.

Barnardo's Scotland Conference, *Children looked after: a shared vision for a better future*, is at Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt University, 4 November. For information, contact Barnardo's Scotland, 235 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AR, tel: 0131-334 9893.

Special Needs London 1997 is at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, 6-8 November. The exhibition includes educational suppliers, publishing, and seminars. Contact Tony Barlow, tel: 0171-358 9291 or Ruth Stuart Moore, tel: 0171-565 7474.

An annual study day organised by the charity I CAN will be held at Logan Hall, London University Institute of Education, 22 November, to look at early intervention for children with communication difficulties. Contact Alison Barker, Barbican Citygate, 1-3 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8NA, tel: 0171-374 4422.

The English Sports Association for People with Learning Difficulties (ESAPLD) is holding a conference *Changing Sport for Good*, 3-4 December, at the Chamberlain Hotel, Birmingham. It is aimed at local authorities and disability sports groups. Contact ESAPLD, Unit 9, Milner Way, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 9JN, tel: (01924) 267555.

Free computer skills training from home, for people with disabilities in Surrey are being organised by 21st Century Training to lead to a national qualification in information technology. Contact Anna Harris, tel: (01737) 823589.

## Watch this space

The third in our series on pain and the regular books page will appear in DN's October issue, due to a lack of editorial space.

**Disability Now is also available on tape. For details, contact Subscriptions at 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 6LP or telephone 0171-383 4575.**

## You've won!

Congratulations to W Avery of Blandford, Dorset, Ms T Surgeoner, of Acocks Green, Birmingham and Miss B Swindon of Barnhurst, Kent. They have each won a £50 voucher to be spent at the Mobility Forum, on driving lessons or driving assessments, after subscribing to DN at the Mobility Roadshow in Crowthorne.

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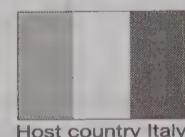
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**888 SHOPRIDER SCOOTER**. Unused, hence the price £1,750. For more information and viewing, tel: (01244) 399260 (Chester).

**ELECTRIC RISER CHAIR**, as new. £200 for quick sale. Tel: 0115-952 3929.

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**LIFTABLE STAIRLIFT**, £2,295 new – £950 ono. Lift and reclining chair £1,080 new – £450 ono. Craftmatic electric bed with wave operation £950 ono. Karma wheelchair £725 new – £300 ono. All in as new condition. Mike Long, tel: 0181-398 3622.

**RISE/RECLINING CHAIR**. Hemco cottage MU5 in ‘mink’ dralon, vgc. £275. Tel: (01354) 694168.

**SHERBOURNE ELECTRIC RECLINER**, suitable for disabled, with stand up facility. As new, still under warranty. £550 ono. Tel: 0161-624 2377 (Oldham).

**RENAULT TRAFFIC VAN**, D Reg, equipped for wheelchair with ramp and four passengers. Professional conversion, side windows, vgc, service history. Tel: (01621) 854223 or (01245) 380925.

**FORD ESCORT 1.4LX** hatch, K Reg, 40k miles. Passenger car chair and electric hoist, £5,250. Tel: (01305) 848826 (Dorset).

**CHAIRMAN ESCORT**, 1996 (N). 4,000 miles, rear access, wheelchair plus 4 seats, power steering, electric windows, £14,000. Tel: (01276) 25306 (Surrey).

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**FORD ESCORT 1.4LX**, 1991 (J) with passenger side electric lift system including wheelchair. Burgundy, 7,000 miles, one owner, £6,500. Tel: (01228) 20320 (Cumbria).

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**LUNAR TOURING CARAVAN**, 1994, built for wheelchair user. Wide door with electric lift operated form w/chair. Side transfer to bathroom. Ready for the road, with many extras. Tel: (01977) 515520 (Leeds area).

**POWERTEC F50 ELECTRIC** wheelchair, left hand control. As new £1,300. Tel: (01342) 835489.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, ALDERSLEY** Excel mini-stretch 85AH batteries. Right hand control (changeable). All black, suit up to 35 tonnes. Easily tailored, minimal miles, extras. Purchased October ’96, cost £4,055 new, accept £2,500. Tel: (01582) 459232.

**ELAP ROTATING CAR** seat. Fits Volvo 940. Cost £490 in December ’94. New condition £200 ono. Tel: (01635) 202605.

**SUNRISE STERLING ELECTRIC** scoota, 4 wheel, 8 mph, m/free batteries and charger. 1996 model £1,500 ono. Tel: (01344) 775751 (Crowthorne, Berks).

**VESSA VITTESSE ELECTRIC** wheelchair £500 ono. Also booster scooter with small and large seats £500 ono. Tel: 0181-360 1688.

**CRUISER 4E FOLDING** power wheelchair, battery charger, kerb climber, cushion. As new - cost £2,600, sell £1,250. Tel: (01324) 624654 (Falkirk).

**HIGH SEAT ARMCHAIR**. As new, beige cloth, teak wood. Cost £387, accept £85. Also 4 wheeled walking aid with brakes, seat and basket, £50. Tel: 0181-309 5712 (Sidcup).

**ROTATING PASSENGER CAR** seat with head support. Fits Vauxhall Astra, Carlton or Cavalier (Oct’ 1984 onwards) or Daewoo Nexia. Price £250. Tel: 0181-673 3579.

**STAIRMATIC MOBILE BATTERY** powered stairclimber. Cost £2,900, accept £1,250 ono. Harry Turner, tel: (01943) 880286 (West Yorks).

**HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SENIOR** snug seat with buggy. For children upto 50 kgs. Can be used as car seat, various positions for eating/sleeping. £300, as new. Tel: (01773) 830318.

**GOWRINGS CHAIRMAN ROVER** Metro, ’96 N Reg, automatic. Drop down back, electric windows, 3,000 miles only, £9,800. Miss Clancy, tel: (01704) 24732.

**LARK ELECTRIC SCOOTER**, 3 wheel, chain drive with battery charger and brand new batteries. Good condition, £475. Tel: (01703) 260395 (Hants).

**SHOPRIDER DELUX**, brand new with battery charger. Insured March ’98, £1,700 ono. Tel: 0181-844 1736.

**BATH LIFT BY** Aquasoothe, Ezzey Lift 2000. Battery operated, fits any bath, £250 ono. Tel: 0181-393 4691.

**QUADRA EXPRESS LIGHTWEIGHT** wheelchair, new, unused. List price £845, sell for £500 ono. Tel: (01902) 331599 (after 6.00pm).

**BOOSTER TOWN AND** Country Tetra 2. Been used only in the garden. Tyre valves sealed - keeps correct air. Handbook, kit, spare bulbs etc. In 1st class condition, a bargain. Tel: (01732) 823450.

**LARK POWER CHAIR**, hardly used. For details and price, tel: 0181-674 0603.

**STOWAWAY FOLDING WHEELCHAIR** and Carter walking frame, both as new. For sale singly or together. Offers please. Tel: 0171-204 8431 (day) 0171-480 7243 (evenings).

**CHAIRLIFT FITS MOST** vans. Can be seen working. Cost £4,000 new. Just the job for your minibus or van. A bargain at only £1,350. Also a hoist, ceiling mounted with glide rail, like new with all fittings. Tel: 0181-994 3239.

**CHAIRMAN FORD FIESTA**, 1993, seats 4 plus one wheelchair passenger. Immaculate condition £6,995. Tel: (01923) 850084.

**FIAT FIORINO, G REG**, converted for easy wheelchair rear access, with long ramp and electric winch, 63,000 miles. Additional rear seat. £3,250. Tel: (01425) 476660.

**THERAPEUTIC ARMCHAIR, LITTLE** used. Lift/recline. £200 ono. Tel: 0181-660 2447.

**LARK CLASSIC OUTDOOR** powered wheelchair, £800. Tel: 0181-699 9281.

**FIAT FIORINO, N REG**. 1.7 diesel, metallic blue, only 3,500 miles. Rear ramp access for wheelchair. Seats 4 people plus one wheelchair, £10,500 ono. Tel: 0181-995 5229 (after 5.00pm, west London).

**BRAND NEW DEVON** Discovery motor caravan. 15ft overall length. Adapted for wheelchair with latest rear hydraulic lift. Illness forces sale, unused, £20,000. Tel: (01872) 862819.

**FORD FIESTA COMBI** wheelchair transport by brotherwood. P Reg, Aug ’96, 8.5K, 1800 diesel. Pas radio, airbag, frontal smile, deep metallic blue, includes two years extended Ford warranty, £12,500. Tel: (01452) 418221.

**STERLING FOUR ELITE**, metallic blue, swivel seat, 4 wheel scooter. Just over 1 years use, excellent condition, speed up to 8mph, £1,300 ono. Tel: (01865) 821315.

**NISSAN PRAIRIE, G REG**. Brotherwood conversion, raised roof, infill seat, taxed, tested, new tyres and brakes, vgc. £10,500. Tel: 0117-950 0538 (Bristol).

**STAND-ON CHAIR** lift, £300. Tel: 0171-538 4110.

**CRUISER 4E ELECTRIC** wheelchair. Very manoeuvrable, electric reclining back rest, indoor/outdoor. Bought for £3,300 18 months ago. As new £1,700. Tel: (01794) 301264.

**ADJUSTAMATIC BED ELECTRIC** posture control and massage. Raise both head and foot without assistance, and massage eases pain and improves circulation, £800 ono. Parker Knoll chair, electric assist to standing position and also reclines with powered leg rest, £500 ono. Chair assists to standing, works well but needs new control switch, space needed, £50 ono. Buyer collects or can arrange delivery. Tel: (01246) 569960, Fax: (01246) 231193.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR CRUISER 2E**. One year old, vgc, right hand joystick control. Comes with charger, kerbclimbers, spare tyres, booster, cushion, rain cover and manual. £1,500 ono. Tel: (01734) 833609 (after 7.00pm).

**SUNRUNNER SHOPRIDER**, good condition, £750 ono. Tel: 0181-890 8129.

**TWO FREEDOM 848I** luxury scooters, 8 mph, 3 months old. Used twice, 18 months guarantee. Circumstances forces sale. New £3,775 each. Sell for £1,995 each ono. Tel: (01784) 451068.

**SUNRISE MEDICAL F40** electric wheelchair. Lefthand drive, 2 years old, vgc, £1,000. Tel: 0181-337 3323 or 0181-891 4271.

**AUSTIN METRO 1.3** (petrol). Adapted for wheelchair passenger. Low mileage and good service history. Will accept £2,000 ono. Tel: 0181-385 7612.

Wanted

**SMALL OR MEDIUM VAN** adapted to carry occupied wheelchair. Tel: (01652) 653569 (Brigg, North Lincs).

**STREAMLINER LIGHT FOLDING** wheelchair by Newton. Tel: (01492) 878040 (Gwynedd).

Holiday wanted

**HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION PLEASE**. We are getting depressed looking for accommodation for holidays and short breaks. Good hotels adapted to take an accompanied wheelchair-confined guest. Facilities to include a room with a bathroom which must include a wheel-in shower. We are looking for places abroad and in the U.K., preferably coastal. Do you know of anywhere - not nursing homes? Please tel: (01279) 730213.

Personal

**BRIGHT, WARM, EDUCATED**. ‘retired’, loyal, 30 yrs, female, capable, independent, wheelchair user (Ataxia), attractive, honest, lonely but astute, quiet n/s. (Sometimes reluctant driver.) Voracious reader. Loves Bach, Matisse, countryside, comedy, cinema, animals, gardening. Hates Tories, religion, sport and travel. You: Male, 40?, n/s, reliable/sensible with similar interests and gsoh, kind, honest and home loving . for genuine friendship/relationship. Derbyshire? Photo appreciated. Box No. 107

**VERY ACTIVE, BELOW-KNEE** amputee. Male (30) seeks similar (or able-bodied) lady to share fun times/relationship. I am honest, sincere and very caring. You are who you are. My hobbies include walking, sport, chess and computers. I also love cooking and listening to soothing music. I live and work in south London. None of us are young for ever... Box No. 108

**34 YEAR OLD** male with Hydrocephalus seeks male aged 20 to 35 years old, who also has Hydrocephalus, for companionship. I look forward to hearing from you. Box No. 109

**I AM LOOKING** for a kind, caring lady, with a good sense of humour who can mix well, drive and likes going out to clubs. I am male with cp. I have got a very good sense of humour. I have a car and my own place. I like music and going out. I would like to meet someone aged 40 yrs+ in the Yorkshire area. Box No. 110

**FRIENDSHIP NEEDED BY** a pink panther who likes to run but his legs are a bit wobbly. He can manage most outings, dinners and intellectual meetings as he is a graduate and is carrying on with a post-grad course in the field of bio-chemistry. Interests include science, teaching, poetry and of course touring and expeditions. Box No. 111

**I AM A** 47 year old lady, and I’m disabled with epilepsy. Would love male or female penpals of any age. I would also dearly like a female friend in the Ayresshire area close enough to visit and go out with. Box No. 112

**WIDOWER, 69, LOVING**, honest, sense of humour, seeks lady of 62-68 for friendship, relationship. Local area is east London - Hainault, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton. Have car, council house, arthritis, left leg slightly paralysed, but can walk. Box No 113

**I AM 41** and single. I live in Leicester. I am disabled by polio but use public transport. I enjoy vegetarian meals, travel and swimming. I would like to meet a genuine, out going female to share hobbies and interests, aged 35-40. Box No. 114

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...and make a big impression.  
Small ads in *DN* reach over 75,000 people for just £4 a line.  
All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form on the left. Send it with a cheque for the total to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

**For personal ads, please send a cheque or postal order for £5 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.**

**To reply to a personal ad, indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to *DN*, address on page 3.**

**GENUINE, TRUSTWORTHY MALE**, 36 with slight disability and poetry and art in his soul. Seeks single, friendly natured female for friendship or to be a penpal. Box No. 115

**NEW FRIENDS SOUGHT** - Derbyshire area. Female graduate, interested in literature, music, art, interior design, ‘Father Ted’, cinema, animals, countryside. Hopes to correspond with like-minded, mature thirty- somethings and maybe meet up. Recently moved and feeling washed up! Although I am wheelchair bound with a progressive disability I am active and drive a bit. No ‘over-compensators’ (i.e. no bunjee jumping ‘supercrrips’), please! Box No. 116

**SINGLE MALE**, living in Avon. Non smoker, 5ft 10in tall, slim build, good appearance. Slight debilitation with legs. Wishes to meet a lady living in the south west to share life and interests. Box No. 117

**LADY, WIDOWED FOR** six years, looking for a nice man under 50, with a view to a long term relationship. Hobbies include knitting, cinema, holidays (especially abroad). Box No. 118

**ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT MALE**, 37, own home, 5ft 10in tall, Aquarian with interest in alternative therapy, music and conversation, amongst many things. Dislikes prejudice, noisy places. Slightly disabled and reasonably mobile. Would like to find an honest, loving relationship based on friendship with lady who has great personality, 28-40. I am based in Yorkshire. Box No. 119

**WOULD ANYBODY WANT** to develop a relationship with a male blind wheelchair user. I’m a graduate in applied social science. Aged 29 years, with a lot to offer. I live in hope. Box No. 120

**WILL TOM (ANON.)** letter writer in *DN* June 1997 please contact Ray Barrett, 26 Red Cow Village, Exeter, Devon EX4 4AZ. Box No. 121

**I AM VISUALLY** impaired, male, and 32 years old, residing in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. My interests are fitness training, travelling (esp. abroad), socialising, but love quiet nights in with a bottle of bubbly with the right company. I am looking for an ideal partner who has similar interest to myself, between the ages of 23 and 38. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Box No. 122

**ROMANTIC AND CARING**, that’s me! Artistic Virgo male, 45, car owner, with limited walking ability due to osteo arthritis. Enjoys art, poetry, countryside and more. Would love to meet a lady, 30-45, non-smoker, for friendship/relationship. Wolverhampton or surrounding area. Box No. 123

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Address  
8. Winsome 9. Enabler  
10. Belly 11. Idolator  
13. Due 14. Add  
16. Crutches 17. Archipelago  
20. Neatness 21. Aura  
DOWN: 2. Denuded  
3. Ribald 4. Sweater 5. Sir  
6. Goulash 7. Very best  
10. Brutality 12. Auction  
14. Alaska 15. Doctor  
18. Glen 19. Ass

## Conference

**CONTOVERSIES IN CEREBRAL PALSY  
POST GRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE,  
DERRIFORD HOSPITAL, PLYMOUTH**  
**FRIDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> & SATURDAY OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

This annual multidisciplinary conference organised by the Special Families Trust (formerly The Trengweath Trust) aims to promote a wider understanding of cerebral palsy. Leading experts from Britain and abroad will be speaking on a range of topical and controversial subjects. On the second day a discussion on assessment methods is presented by professionals from SCOPE's Advisory Assessment Service.

For further details write or ring Special Families Trust, Erme House, Station Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 3AU. 01752 346861.

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham at Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU, or telephone 0171-252 1362 (Fax 0171-237 8019)

## Holidays

## THE STACKPOLE CENTRE

UNIQUE HOLIDAY COMPLEX ON THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE COAST FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS: SELF-CATERING, COTTAGES, GROUP HOUSES & HOTEL (Wales Tourist Board 3 Crowns Highly Commended) POOL, JACUZZI, THEATRE, RESTAURANT, ART, POTTERY & MUSIC ROOMS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE LEVEL 1

For info & Holiday Pack, Tel: 01646 661425 Fax: 01646 661456

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Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX. Tel: (01753) 685718.

Contracted to ATOL agents.

## WEATHER FORECAST

WINTER IS EXPECTED TO BE VERY WARM AND SUNNY THIS YEAR following the announcement of our

**ALL NEW  
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HOTELS, SELF CATERING HOLIDAYS TOURS, PLUS LOTS MORE THROUGHOUT THE U.K. & WORLDWIDE

Call A.T.S. TRAVEL now, on  
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**HAWAII DREAM TOUR**  
DEPARTS 5th NOVEMBER for 14 NIGHTS  
A FEW PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

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Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities including tea room/shop. Take-away meals and equipment hire available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.

For colour brochure please contact:  
Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm, Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF. Phone: 01409 211509. Fax 01409 211510.

**Holidays in France for  
disabled people**

**AUBERGE DE LA TOUR**  
Small family run farmhouse/guesthouse in rural France, Loire Valley/Vendee area. English qualified nurse proprietor. Respite care available on request. Adapted minibuses for transportation.

For brochure contact Mr & Mrs Bartlam, 40 Rue St Eloi, Courlay, 79440 Deux Sevres, France. (00.33) 5.49.72.25.37. or English tel. contact Heather Bacon 01395 267084.

## LLETY MIERI

**LLANDEILO, WEST WALES**  
3 charming award-winning cottages, designed for wheelchair users and their families. Peaceful rural location overlooked by Dindefwr Castle. Each warm and well equipped cottage sleeps 4. Extensive grounds and games room. Open all year. Short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558 823 059) for brochure.

## Deadlines for the October issue of Disability Now:

Booking deadline is 12 September

Copy deadline is 16 September

## Exhibition

**COLCHESTER  
DISABILITY EQUIPMENT  
EXHIBITION '97**

An open invitation to the public, elderly and disabled people, their carers, providers and those in related professional services to identify their requirements and see the latest developments in equipment and support services

**COLCHESTER LEISURE WORLD**  
Cowdray Avenue Colchester  
**4th & 5th SEPTEMBER**  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY 10am to 5pm

<> FREE ADMISSION <>

Good access <> central venue <> good facilities  
In association with the Kilverstone Mobility Assessment Centre

For details tel/fax: 01508-470200

## Trainers/Consultants required

**NORTH KENT HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST  
DISABILITY EQUALITY TRAINER**

North Kent Healthcare NHS Trust is participating in an initiative led by the Royal College of Physicians to develop disability awareness in the NHS, and as part of this project the Trust is implementing and evaluating a programme of disability awareness/equality training.

We are looking for a trainer to lead and evaluate a two day programme during October/November 1997 and then to provide consultancy support and materials so those who attend can train their staff and colleagues.

Following evaluation of a pilot event, and training needs analysis of the participants for this programme, the following key areas for inclusion in the course have been identified: definitions and models of disability; language, behaviour and attitudes; the disability movement and legislation; legal obligations for employers and service providers; making practical changes; and delivering local training.

If you would like to be considered for this project, please submit details of a draft course programme, materials and a comprehensive quote for your costs for a two day training event, plus consultancy fees and expenses, for the cascade training support to Dr Z Matti, Disablement Services Centre, Medway Hospital, Windmill Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5NY by 24th September 1997. We anticipate that you will then be invited to attend an interview in early October.

If you wish to discuss this initiative or require further information, please contact Dr Matti at the address above or on 01634 830000, ext 3937.

**GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS  
SELF-CATERING COTTAGES  
FOR THE DISABLED**

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford,  
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Telephone: 01598 710241  
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.  
Equipment available.  
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

## Holidays with Confidence

Whatever your disability is, we can cater for all your needs. We specialise in low cost, worldwide, scheduled air fares at discounted prices, car hire and insurance. We also deal with package holidays with all major tour operators. Retail agents for ATOL holders. Phone 0181 689 1166/1124. Fax 0181 255 4021.

## S.E. SPAIN

Purpose built ground floor holiday apartments. Two bedrooms, pool, patio area, shower chair, hoist. Towels/Linen included. Sandy beaches, relaxing and pleasant holiday for disabled person and their Carer. Please write/phone/fax: Lisa Fowler, RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1HE. Telephone: 01491 578446; Fax: 01491 413741

## HERNE BAY - KENT

Mobile homes purpose built for people with disabilities, in tranquil setting. Close to all facilities. Fully equipped, TV, heating. Rates £102 to £160 per home per week. Brochure from: Strobe Park Foundation, Herne, Kent CT6 7NE. — Tel: (01227) 373292. Reg. Charity 227794

## WINGED FELLOWSHIP TOURS

Overseas holidays for people with disabilities. Holland, Eire, Channel Islands, France, Switz, Norway, Czech, Majorca, USA etc. Prices include flights, travel in adapted vehicles, accessible accommodation, nurse/couriers. Also UK budget "Discovery" holidays. All destinations accessible. Brochure from Gary Day: 0171 833 4579 ext 122.

## ORLANDO, FLORIDA

HOME WITH A HEART FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS! SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON GOLF COURSE. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT INSTALLED), CABLE TV, FREE LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS, FREE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP. 24 HOUR "ON CALL" MANAGEMENT COMPANY. 15 mins ORLANDO AIRPORT. 20 mins DISNEY. PARAPLEGIC OWNER. SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE, BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT. TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029 BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

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Are you interested in disabled people and employment? Aiming to gain or upgrade a qualification?

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Places are available from October 1997.

A few partial bursaries are available for MSc or Diploma applicants. Disabled people are particularly invited to apply.

This programme is sponsored by the Post Office.

For further information and an application form, please contact Brenda Smith at the Rehabilitation Resource Centre, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB.

Tel: 0171 477 8378 Fax: 0171 477 8356. Email: rrc@city.ac.uk Ref: DN.

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## For sale (continued on page 33)

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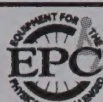
**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL  
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For sale



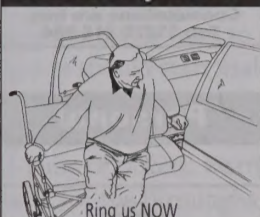
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ex demonstrator, 2.4 diesel, 15000 miles approx,  
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accessible conversion, 'GL' trim.

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**D & K Mobility**, 62, Hollybush Road,  
Gravesend, Tel: 01474 353837 Mon-Fri 10-5  
Sat 10-3. Closed Thursday.

Recruitment (continued on page 34)

**Art Shape LIMITED**

REQUIRE A DIRECTOR £19 184 - £20,314

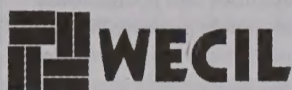
Art Shape is a charitable, specialist arts charity working in the field of arts and equal opportunities in Gloucestershire.

We want a Director with vision to lead the organisation and encourage arts providers and funders to work in alliance with marginalised groups at the centre of arts programming. You will need proven experience in fundraising and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. A sense of humour is essential.

Applications welcome from suitably qualified people regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender or disability.

For an application pack forward a large SAE (50p) (Please state if large print or audio tape is required) to: Art Shape Ltd, Guildhall Arts Centre, 23 Eastgate Street, Gloucestershire, GL1 1NS. Telephone 01452 307684

Closing date: Friday 26th September '97  
Interview Date: Friday 10th October '97



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CENTRE FOR  
INTEGRATED LIVING**

REQUIRES DISABLED PERSON FOR THE POST OF

**CARE MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY PROJECT WORKER (f/t)**

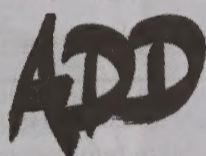
To develop an exciting project providing peer advocacy to  
Disabled people being assessed by Social Services in Bristol.

Salary: £17,481 to £18,636 (APT & C Pt 29/31)

Further details contact: Wendy Tyler, WECIL Ltd., Leinster  
Avenue, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1AR, tel: (0117) 983 9839  
(voice and minicom).

Closing date : Friday 19 September

WECIL particularly encourages applications from under-represented  
groups (e.g. Black Disabled people, Disabled Lesbians and Gay Men)



**PROGRAMME FUNDRAISER**  
(Salary £15,000 - £20,000)

ADD - Action on Disability and Development - supports the self-help initiatives of disabled people in their work for basic human rights and equal opportunities in developing countries. We are committed to equal opportunities.

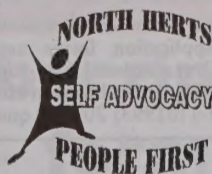
We are seeking an experienced fundraiser capable of securing funding from DFID, CEC, NLCD etc. as well as trusts and foundations. Applicants with a personal experience of disability will have a particular advantage. excellent writing and numeracy skills, with experience of spreadsheets, will be essential.

The job is offered on either a part-time or full-time basis. We offer accessible offices in the heart of Somerset that are light and quiet. For an application pack and further information contact ADD at 23 Lower Keyford, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4AP. Recent applicants will be reviewed so need not re-apply.

Closing date for applications 5 September.



**WANTED  
BY  
NORTH HERTS  
PEOPLE FIRST**



A Support Worker Co-ordinator  
with a disability  
to work with members of  
North Herts People First in  
running their organisation

Closing date 28<sup>th</sup> November  
(previous applicants do not need to apply again)

Hours: 30 each week

Salary: £13,815

For an application pack  
(available on tape and written)

Telephone 01438 740162,  
E-mail: pohwer@globalnet.co.uk  
or write to: POHWER, Chells Enterprise Village,  
The Glebe, Chells Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 0LZ

EDUCATION & LEISURE

**WESTMINSTER  
LIBRARIES  
& ARCHIVES**

**Project Officer WELDIS**

(A Westminster Information Service for Older People and Disabled People)

**£18,099 - £20,976 P.A. INC. 2 year contract**

Would you like to be part of an exciting new development?

Westminster Libraries is working with both statutory and voluntary sectors to develop a co-ordinated computerised database of information for older people and disabled people of all ages in Westminster. It will be primarily a 'behind the scenes' service through which national and local information will be gathered and updated at a central point and provided to a variety of organisations. The project has been funded by the Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster Joint Consultative Committee.

We are looking for a Project Officer to develop and establish this project.

- you will need to have experience in information provision
- you will need awareness of the information needs of one or both of the customer groups
- you will need to be able to develop a computerised information service, which is compatible with other relevant systems
- you will need to be able to 'sell' the service to information providers in both the statutory and voluntary sector and to support and advise those who take it up.

Applications from people with disabilities would be especially welcome.

For an informal discussion ring Julie Ryder on 0171 641 4893 or 4879 (minicom).

Benefits include: ■ generous annual leave ■ interest free season ticket loan ■ free swimming facilities ■ staff discount card ■ excellent pension scheme.

For an application form please telephone 0171 641 1996 or 0171 641 1997 which is staffed from 9.00am to 4.30pm. An answerphone is in operation out of office hours. Please quote ref: E&L 23/DN. Closing date: 12 September 1997. Interviews for this post will be held during the week commencing 22 September.

The Council operates a No Smoking at Work Policy.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

**City of Westminster**



**ARTLINK EAST**

An Arts Development Organisation for Arts and Disability in Lincolnshire.

Technology Co-ordinator - £14,425

Administrator - £14,425

Promotions Organiser - £14,425 pro rata 18.5 hrs

Further details and application form send SAE to:  
Lee Sass, Director, Artlink East, The Guildhall Arts  
Centre, St Peters Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities.

Posts funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.

Deadline for applications 19<sup>th</sup> September



Promoting Equal Rights For Disabled People  
**Disability West Midlands**



**Community Care Advisor**

**£16k-£18k - 37 hpw**

**West Midlands**

This post will assist Disability West Midlands to make effective community care available to as many disabled people as possible. The Community Care Advisor will provide information, advice and representation for disabled people who need help in getting their Community Care needs met.

You will need to demonstrate: knowledge of Community Care legislation and other legislation relating to disabled people; knowledge of the social model of disability; previous experience of working face to face with clients and experience of producing relevant publications/literature. Personal experience of disability desired but not essential.

This role will involve travel throughout the West Midlands and some evening work. This is a three year fixed term post based in the West Midlands.

For further details and an application form please contact Disability West Midlands, Moseley Hall Hospital, Alcester Road, Birmingham B13 8JL. Tel: 0121 449 1225, Minicom 0121 442 2132.

Closing date: 12 September 1997.

## Recruitment

## WEST OF ENGLAND COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

require a  
Disabled Person for the post

**CO-ORDINATOR**

A pt & C pt 35 - 38 £20,229 - £21,975

35 hours per week

30 days annual leave

pension scheme

contribution of up to £2000 can be made towards relocation

WECODP is a well established campaigning and community development organisation in a thriving Disabled people's movement and voluntary sector.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate a commitment to, and understanding of, Disability Equality and the social model and experience of managing people and money.

We are committed toward equal opportunities and we particularly welcome applications from Disabled people who experience simultaneous oppression.

For an application pack phone Berni on 0117 942 0721 at The Yard, 6 Sommerville Road, Bishopston, BRISTOL BS7 9AA

Closing date for applications: Monday 13th October 1997

Interviews will be held on: Thursday 23rd October 1997

Working Together For Our Right To Equality

**DISABILITY ACTION IN ISLINGTON**

wishes to appoint

**A FULL-TIME OFFICE MANAGER**

To provide a high quality administrative service to the organisation

SALARY: Scale 6 (£18,707 pa)

You must be a disabled person with experience of office management including finance and personnel. You must also have a proven commitment to disabled people's rights and Equal Opportunities.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND AN APPLICATION FORM CONTACT:

DISABILITY ACTION IN ISLINGTON

91 Upper Street LONDON N1 0NP

Tel: 0171-226 0137

Fax: 0171-359 1855

Minicom: 0171-359 1891

CLOSING DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1997

**DPPI****National Information Service on Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood**

Exciting new project based in Central London needs an experienced ...

**INFORMATION OFFICER £20,457 pro rata 17.5 hrs/wk**

To establish database & resource library, produce journal & information sheets, answer enquiries and promote the service. Must be computer literate with excellent writing/editing skills, highly self-motivated, preferably with personal experience of disability & parenting.

For application pack (standard, LP or tape) send large 39p SAE to  
DPPI 45 Beech St, 5th Floor, London EC2P 2LX.

Interviewing end of September

RE-ADVERTISEMENT: PREVIOUS CANDIDATES NEED NOT APPLY



**We are looking for two enthusiastic and committed - preferably disabled - people to join our staff team.**

**Outreach Advice & Information Worker**

NJC Grade 6 SCP 26

£17,652 (two year fixed contract)

**Main duties of this post are:**

- To provide a home visiting service to disabled people
- To deal with the more complex benefits advice and take on casework up to and including tribunal work
- To set up and run regular advice and information sessions in various venues in the borough

**Administrator**

NJC Grade 5 SCP 22

£15,858

**Main duties of this post are:**

- Dealing with general enquiries for information and advice (including basic welfare benefits advice)
- Maintaining office systems and records and general office duties
- Acting as First Aid Officer

Closing date for application: Friday 3rd October

Interviews on: 21st October for Administrator

24th October for Outreach Worker

For job description and application form please send large SAE to: LAPD, 67 Engleheart Road, London SE6 2HN

Application form available in large print or on tape on request.

**WFAD**

Waltham Forest Association of Disabled People

WFAD (Waltham Forest Association of Disabled People) wishes to appoint a disabled person as

**ADVOCACY PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR.**

This new post is funded by a National Lottery Grant.

Grade - PO1, Salary - £19,259 to £20,766 plus Outer London

Weighting £1,212. Jobshare considered.

The successful candidate for this post will have:

- Direct understanding and experience of the issues facing disabled people in their daily lives, plus a pro-active commitment to equal opportunities in all aspects of employment and service delivery.
- Experience of advocacy work with disabled people,
- Experience of staff and financial management.

If you feel you have the necessary personal qualities and professional experience to meet the challenge of this exciting new project, WFAD would like to hear from you.

Closing date for applications - 26/9/97

Job Application Packs - In print or on tape - available from WFAD, Unit 13/14 Alpha Business Centre, South Grove, Walthamstow, London E17 7NX. Telephone - 0181 509 0812, Minicom - 0181 223 0359.

**THEM WIFIES****COMMUNITY ARTS WORKER**

Salary: £17,055 pro rata (4.5 days per week)

(Funding for this post has been secured to 31/01/2000)

Funding has been secured from the National Lottery Charities Board to employ a worker to support The Lawnmowers Theatre Group who are five adults with learning disabilities, to develop drama clubs in Gateshead for other adults with learning disabilities. The worker would, through the drama clubs, develop, implement and monitor the training needs of adults with learning disabilities. The post also includes carrying out a feasibility study into the need for clubs providing entertainment (ie cabaret, disco etc.) for adults with learning disabilities in the Gateshead region and co-ordinating the production and distribution of Lawnmowers training materials

This post is open to women candidates only (section 7(2) E of the Sex Discrimination Act applies)

Closing date for applications Friday 19 September 1997

For further information please forward SAE to

Veronica Addison, Administrator, THEM WIFIES, Pilgrim Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. NE1 6QF



NATIONAL  
LOTTERY  
CHARITIES  
BOARD

Them Wifies is a Company Limited by Guarantee, No: 2385089 and a Registered Charity, No: 702946.

Continence Advisory Service  
and Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust

Dialability (Disability Information Resource)

## Continence Nurse/ Personal Care Advisor Full Time - F Grade

Fixed Term Contract for 2 years initially  
(Ref. N1095)

Qualifications: RN with community experience and, preferably, with urology and teaching experience, although not essential

This vacancy is an exciting new opportunity of a jointly funded post working within Oxfordshire Community Health NHS Trust and Dialability (Disability Information Resource).

The post will be split - 25 hours working within the Continence Advisory Service, based at Witney in Oxfordshire, in which role the successful candidate would have the opportunity to develop their clinical skills in the promotion of continence, and 12 1/2 hours working within Oxfordshire Independent Living Centre, based at Oxford, offering professional advice on personal care and continence. Both roles offer a county wide service.

Informal enquiries welcomed by Heather Paterson, Continence Advisor, on 01993 776872 and Sue Butterworth, Manager of Dialability Oxfordshire Limited, on 01865 798723.

Closing Date: 12 September 1997

Interviews: Week commencing 22 September 1997

Application forms and job descriptions available from Personnel and Organisational Development Directorate, Oxfordshire Community Health NHS Trust, Bourton House, 18 Thorney Leys Park, Witney, Oxon, OX8 7GE Tel (01993) 707630 quoting appropriate reference number.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



OXFORDSHIRE

COMMUNITY HEALTH

NHS TRUST

## Disability Arts in London Magazine Part-Time Administrator

Hours: 14.4 hours per week Salary: £5,290 p.a.

DAIL is the only monthly magazine devoted to discussion of disability arts. We are seeking an Administrator who will ensure the smooth running of the DAIL Office, organise the subscriptions and distribution, and assist the Editor.

For an application pack contact: DAIL Magazine, 34 Osnaburgh Street, LONDON NW1 3ND, Voice: 0171 916 6351, Minicom answerphone: 0171 916 6350, Fax: 0171 916 5396

Closing date: Wednesday 24 September

Interviews: Thursday 2 October

The post is only open to disabled people



**A.D.O.O.R**

Disability Equality Agency

seeks p/t (16 hours)

co-ordinator/development worker for London boroughs' youth project. Youth work experience is beneficial.

Call: 0181 446 6648

for details and application.

**Services****Disabled Accountant**

works from home and prepares accounts for self-employed people and small businesses for taxation purposes. Can obtain tax rebates if applicable. Fees reasonable. Consultations are free. Tel: 01279 415 664

**Personal**

A dating agency designed for people with disabilities and is open to discerning able bodied people.

Tel/Fax 01473 226950

Lonely, bored and fed up?

Why not give Handicate a try?

Handicate, The Wellington Centre, 52 Chevellier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB  
Member of ABIA

**Find a friend****Find-A-Friend**

Anybody - Any Age - Anywhere  
Able-bodied or Disabled

Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship

**MUTUAL ESSENTIAL LINKS**

1 Weir Street, Northwich,  
Cheshire CW9 5HL

Tel/Fax: (24 hrs) UK 01606 49093  
Overseas +44 + 1606 49093

**Motor insurance****The "Access" Policy**

A unique contract specially designed for owners of vehicles converted to carry wheelchair passengers.

Substantial premium savings - up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact

CHARD INSURANCE  
SERVICES (REGISTERED  
BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD  
STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH.  
01460 61373/62148

**Property for sale****ST MARYCHURCH, TORQUAY**

Ground floor newly converted self contained corner flat specifically designed for occupier with restricted mobility. Level access to shops and Health Centre. £72,500

Black Horse Agencies, 113 Union Street, TORQUAY. Tel: 01803 292293.

**Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.**

## Get set for the slopes



Next year's holidays may seem far away, but if you want to go skiing, you should start making plans.

Let DN help you out. We've got 25 pairs of tickets, worth £14 each, for the Birmingham Ski and Snowboard Show at the National Exhibition Centre 7-19 October.

The show is a chance for you to find out about everything and anything to help you enjoy your skiing trip. There is advice on where to go in the United States, Canada or Europe.

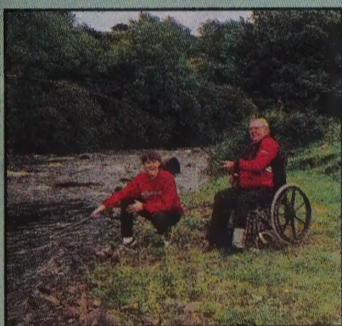
For the fashion conscious

there are regular fashion shows so you can decide on the look that'll knock them dead on the slopes.

There will also be a joint charities stand involving Backup, Uphill Ski Club, the National Handicapped Skiers Association and the British Ski Club for the Disabled. They will all be giving advice on all aspects of equipment.

The show is open Friday 12 noon to 9.30pm and Saturday/Sunday 10am to 6pm. For more information and further tickets, tel: 0121-767 4433.

## Net gains on fishing trip



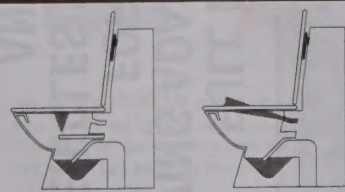
Total Hygiene fishing trip winner Vince Henry took grandson Paul on his trip to the River Doon in Scotland.

Mr Henry said: "We had a fabulous time. The hotel was great and we weren't left needing anything." And to make the trip complete, he even caught a brown trout.

## eclos o mate AUTOMATICALLY THE BEST!

Clos-O-Mat provides flushing, washing with warm water and gentle drying with warm air - all in one simple automatic operation. It eliminates the need for assistance and restores privacy and dignity to those unable to cleanse themselves manually.

- Ideal for installation in hospitals, institutions and private homes.
- Can be customised to suit individual users.
- Special twin spray model available.
- First class after-sales service.
- The most popular shower/toilet in daily use in Britain and Europe.



Warm water washing Warm air drying

SURVEYS AND DEMONSTRATIONS WITHOUT OBLIGATION

Reply to Dept. DN, TOTAL HYGIENE LIMITED  
2 Newton Street, STRETFORD,  
Manchester M32 8LG.  
Fax: 0161-866 8223.

**THE MARKET  
LEADER!**

**FREephone: 0800 374965**

## Technology can be fun



Clever and colourful: the main exhibition hall

Techniquest is Britain's award winning science discovery centre and DN has eight family tickets to give away, worth £12.50 each (for a maximum of two adults with each ticket).

The centre in Cardiff has a main exhibition hall with more than 160 interactive exhibits, giving visitors a hands-on approach to learning about science and technology.

There is also a science theatre running a new show called *The Science of Stage and Screen*, which explores how lighting and sound effects can be used to affect our mood.

The Planetarium allows visitors to learn about the solar system through various presentations including *The Star Show* and *Stars and Star Signs*.

Younger visitors should love the Discovery room. This is based on various themes such as *Hands and Feet*, *World of Codes* and *Forensic Science*.

The Centre is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm weekdays, 10.30am to 5.00pm weekends and bank holidays. For information, contact Techniquest, Stuart Street, Cardiff CF1 6BW, tel: (01222) 475475.

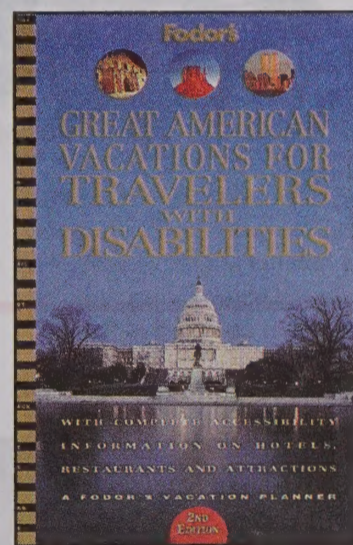
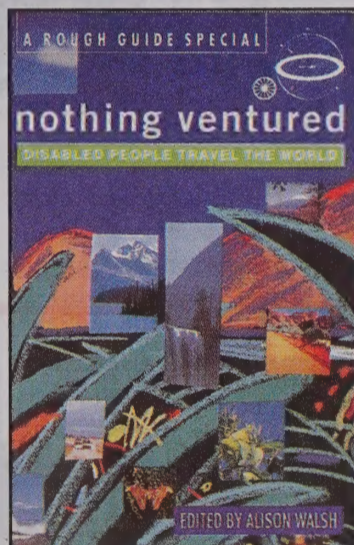
## Take a book break

If you are planning a spot of globe trotting or even just a local trip, DN has 25 copies of the Rough Guide's *Nothing Ventured - Disabled People Travel the World* (worth £7.99 each, below left) and 15 copies of Fodor's *Great American Vacations for Travellers with Disabilities* (worth £14.99 each, below right) to give you ideas and advice.

The informative guides cover all you need to know about

planning and enjoying your holiday - including accommodation, getting around, entertainment and accessibility. The Rough Guide has also included more than a hundred tales by disabled travellers, describing the ups and downs of their adventures.

Copies can also be ordered from bookshops by quoting ISBN numbers: Rough Guide 0-7471-0208-2, Fodor's guide 0-679-03225-8.



## How to enter

Send your name and address on a separate postcard, marked Ski, Fodor, Rough Guide or Techniquest to: *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Closing dates: Ski show 22 September, travel guides and the Techniquest Centre 30 September.

This competition is not open to DN staff or associates.

## Disability NOW

### Subscription form

To subscribe, fill in this form and return it with a cheque (payable to Disability Now) to: *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, or alternatively phone our subscriptions hotline, on 0171-383-4575.

#### Multiple copy rates are as follows:

2 copies £44, 3 copies £66, 4 copies £80,  
5 copies £100, 6 copies £120,  
7 copies £140, 8 copies £160,  
9 copies £180, 10-50 copies £200,  
51-100 copies £225, 101-150 copies £250.  
One year (12 issues) only

Individual at home address	£16 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£31 (24 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional/organisation	£25 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£49 (24 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas (airmail)	£30 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Those on Income Support/ Job Seekers Allowance (please include proof of entitlement)	FREE	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name

Address

Postcode



# UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

SUPERIOR VEHICLE CONVERSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WISHING TO TRAVEL IN THEIR OWN WHEELCHAIRS. MOST AVAILABLE ON MOTABILITY CALL OUR SALES HOTLINE NOW ON (Charged at local rate)

0 3 4 5 4 1 3 3 4 8

For Free Information Pack and Details of this month's Special Offers

## INTRODUCING FIVE OF OUR TOP SELLING VEHICLES

### DAIHATSU HIJET - FREEDOM

Extremely popular small M.P.V. cost effective, but can still carry one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers.



### VW CARAVELLE

Ultimate flexibility best describes this multi purpose vehicle. A favourite buy for both individuals and organisations requiring a choice of seating options.



### FIAT FIORINO

The cornerstone of the Universal stable built to our industries leading specification, this vehicle is price sensitive and our best seller year on year.



### VAUXHALL COMBO

Offers increased choice for our customer. Super all round vision for the wheelchair passenger. Available in a number of base vehicle options.



**FULL RANGE OF DRIVING ADAPTATIONS FOR ALL OUR VEHICLES SUPPLIED AND FITTED. SWIVEL SEATS ALSO AVAILABLE**



### FORD COURIER

Superb looking vehicle, well received by our customers carries one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers. Available with automatic gearbox.

Head Office: Jordans, Partridge Lane, Rusper, Sussex. RH12 4RW Tel: 01293 871019  
Works & Northern Office: Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighouse. HD6 1LL Tel: 01484 400795

**NO NONSENSE VEHICLE CONVERSIONS**

# Disability Now

£1.60 September 1997

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

Win hot tickets and travel books

## Home, dear home

Living costs and when you die – it all depends on the street where you live. See page 1.

Hot and bothered: Direct Action Network campaigners from the London Borough of Haringey burn council bills charging them for basic care services in a demonstration in July. See page 1.



LISA HITCHEN

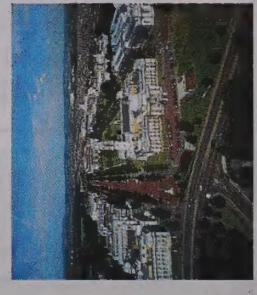
### FASHION

Term time style for teenagers



### CITY FOCUS

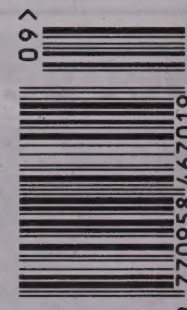
Cardiff – heart of the red dragon



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